over 75 million copies sold

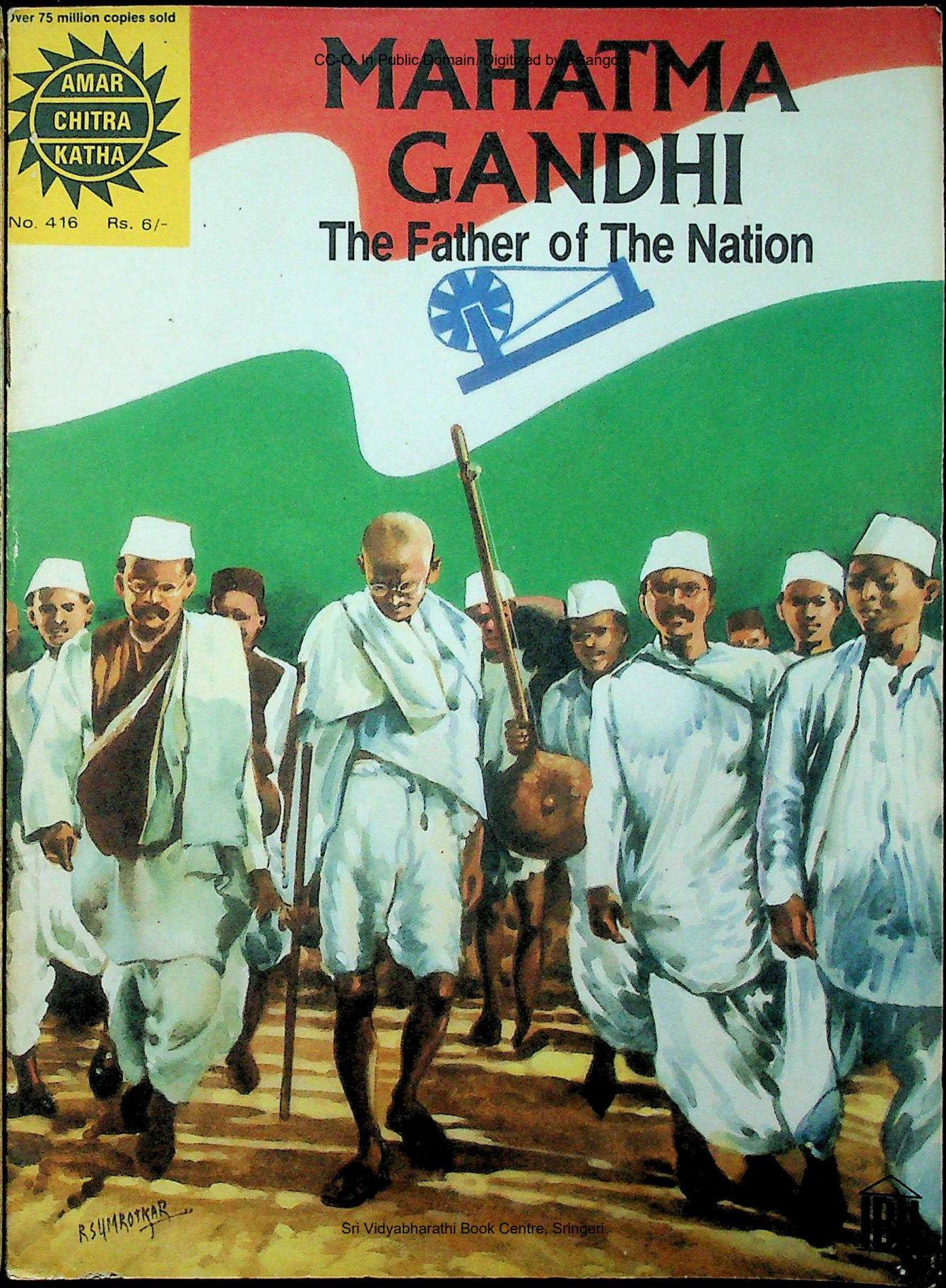
AMAR CHITRA KATHA

No. 416 Rs. 6/-

CC-0. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

MAHATMA GANDHI

The Father of The Nation



Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

Amar Chitra Katha
No.416 August 1, 1989

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

Editor
ANANT PAI

Associate Editor
Margie Sastry

Script
Gayatri Madan Dutt

Revised By:
Prof. C.N. Patel

Artworks
Souren Roy

Art Superintendent
Chandrakant Rane

Advertisement Manager
M. Subramanian

Reference Assistance
Shobha Rao

*

Published by:
H.G. MIRCHANDANI
for India Book House Pvt. Ltd
Mahalaxmi Chambers,
22, Bhulabhai Desai Road,
Bombay 400 026.
and printed by him at
Prasad Offset Press
Shed B & C, S. No. 42,
Hissa No. 2, Sativali,
Vasai Kaman Road,
Vasai Taluka, Thane District
© Navjivan Trust,
Ahmedabad, 1989.
All rights reserved 1989
Sole Authorised Agency for
Subscriptions:
Partha Books Division,
Navprabhat Chambers,
Ranade Road, Dadar,
Bombay 400 028.

MAHATMA GANDHI
PART–II

Jawaharlal Nehru said of Mahatma Gandhi :

"He was like a powerful current of fresh air that made us stretch ourselves and take deep breaths, like a beam of light that pierced the darkness and removed the scales from our eyes, like a whirlwind that upset many things but most of all the working of people's minds. He did not descend from the top; he seemed to emerge from the millions of India, speaking their language and incessantly drawing attention to them and their appalling condition."

Our first volume on Mahatma Gandhi (the early days) describes his birth and childhood spent in Gujarat. It narrates his years in South Africa and his emergence as a leader who introduced the novel concept of Satyagraha or passive resistance. In 1915, he came to India and became so deeply involved with the problem of the masses, that he was called Bapu or Father.

He suggested the method of non-violent non-co-operation to oppose the British rule. His countrymen hailed him as the Father of the Nation.

OUR NEXT RELEASE ON
September 1, 1989
Bhagawat Purana–3
Krishna
UPHOLDS GOVERDHAN

When you buy a Chitra Katha
make sure it is Amar Chitra Katha

Over 75 million copies sold

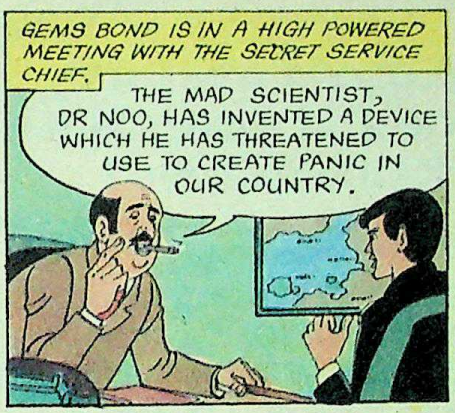
Over 400 titles now on sale

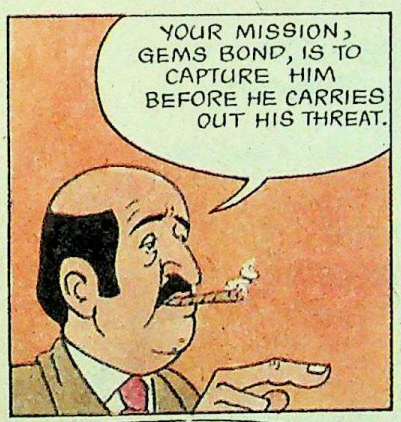
CC-O. In Public Domain. Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

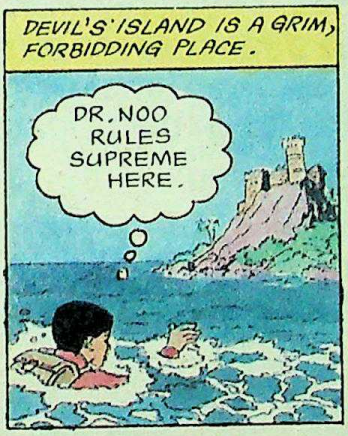
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

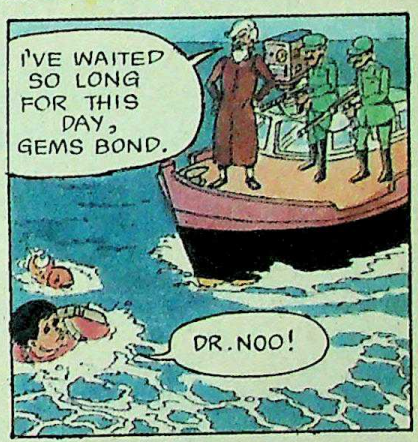
The Adventures of GEMS BOND

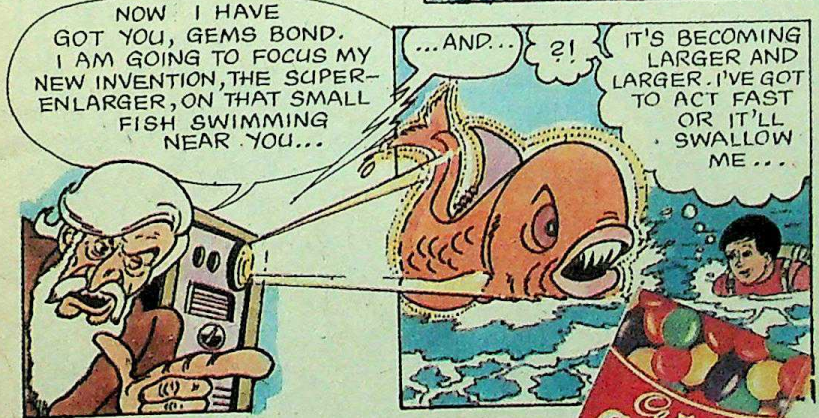
Episode 2. Death Trap











WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Complete the story in 200 or fewer words and send it to Tinkle Competition Section, P. Bag No. 16541 Bombay-400 026 by August 20, 1989. The best 5 entries will each receive a prize of Rs. 50/- and also a half-yearly subscription to Tinkle. The next fifty best entries will each get Rs. 10/-

Cadbury's **GEMS**

Non-stop excitement!

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

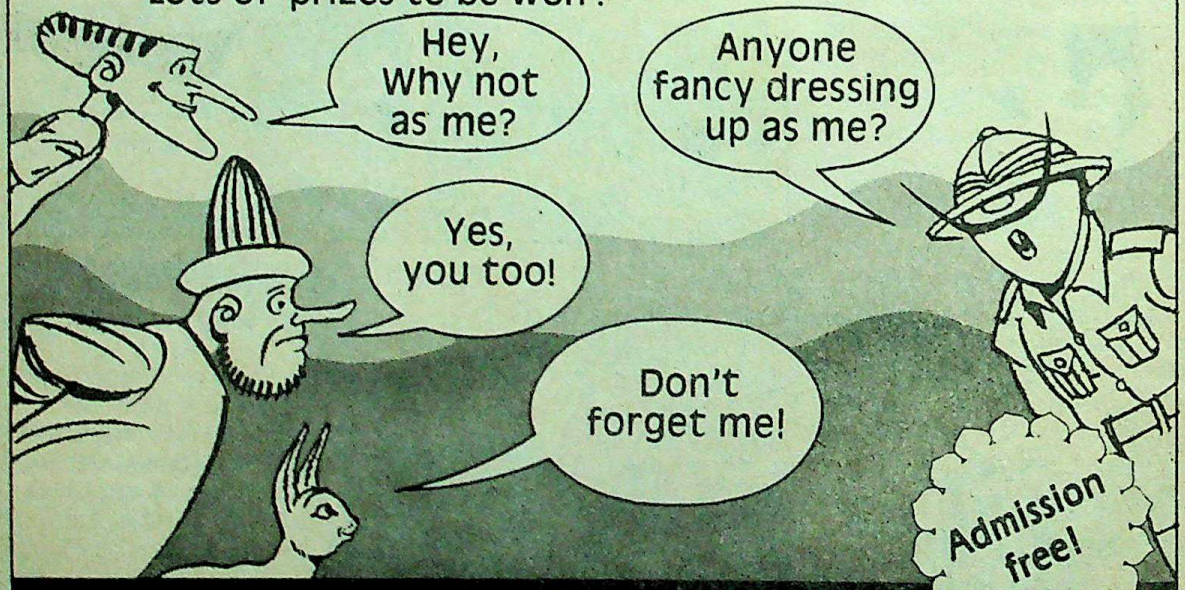
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

A grand treat for Tinkle and Amar Chitra Katha Readers!

Uncle Pai will be holding a quiz contest based on science and animal life features in Tinkle at Patkar Hall, New Marine lines, Bombay-20, on 12th August 1989 at 3.00 p.m.

There will also be a fancy dress competition based on Tinkle and Amar Chitra Katha. Children in the age group 6 - 15 can participate.

Lots of prizes to be won !



So hurry up and collect your entry passes from:

IBH India Book House Pvt. Ltd.
Mahalaxmi Chambers 22 Bhulabhai Desai Road Bombay-400 026

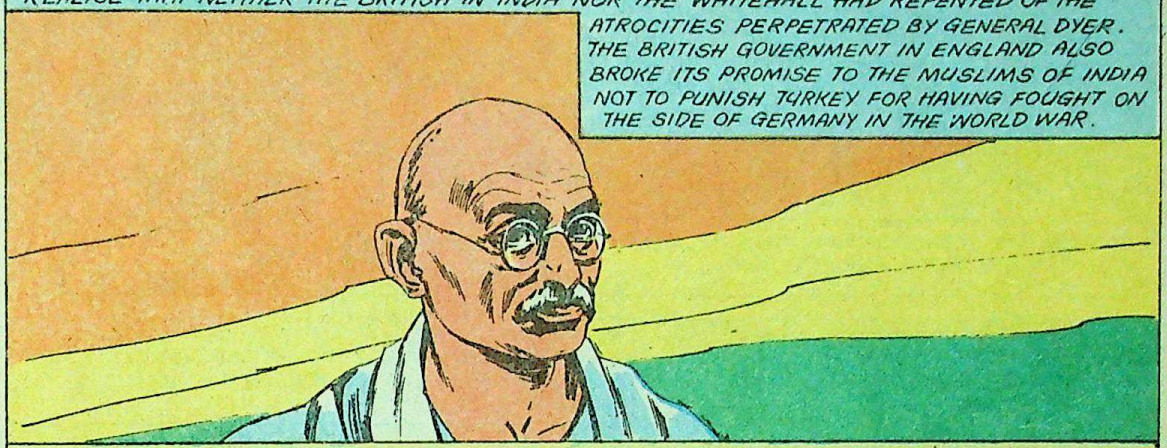
Children wishing to take part in the fancy dress competition must register their names at India Book House Pvt. Ltd Office on or before 10th August 1989

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

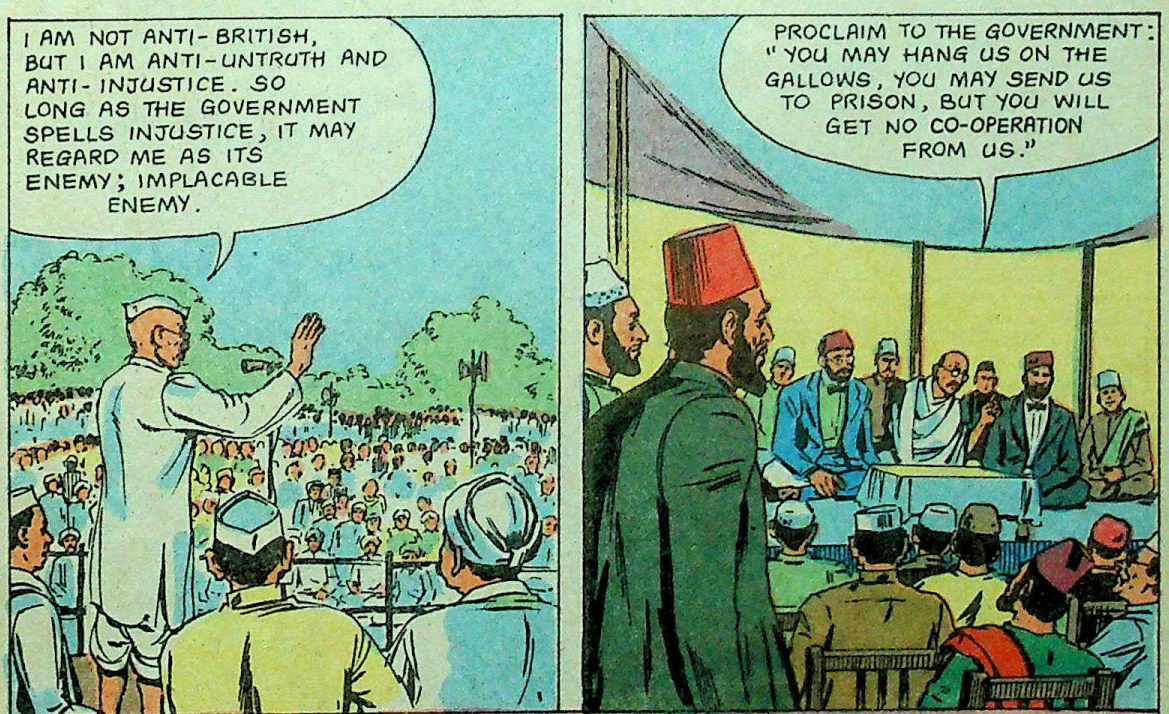
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

MAHATMA GANDHI — The Father of The Nation

THE TERRIBLE MASSACRE AT JALLIANWALA BAGH ON APRIL 13, 1919, SENT SHOCK WAVES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. GANDHI WAS ALLOWED TO GO TO PUNJAB IN OCTOBER. HE MET MANY PEOPLE AND TALKED WITH THEM AND HEARD OF THE CRUELTIES THEY HAD SUFFERED. STILL HE CONTINUED TO TRUST THE BRITISH. BUT IT TOOK HIM ONLY A FEW MONTHS MORE TO REALISE THAT NEITHER THE BRITISH IN INDIA NOR THE WHITEHALL HAD REPENTED OF THE ATROCITIES PERPETRATED BY GENERAL DYER. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN ENGLAND ALSO BROKE ITS PROMISE TO THE MUSLIMS OF INDIA NOT TO PUNISH TURKEY FOR HAVING FOUGHT ON THE SIDE OF GERMANY IN THE WORLD WAR.



LOSING HIS FAITH OF MANY YEARS IN THE BRITISH PEOPLE'S SENSE OF JUSTICE, GANDHI NOW TURNED A DETERMINED REBEL AGAINST BRITISH RULE IN INDIA. HE CALLED IT 'SATANIC' AND ASKED HINDUS AND MUSLIMS TO UNITE AGAINST IT AND NOT CO-OPERATE WITH IT IN ANY WAY.

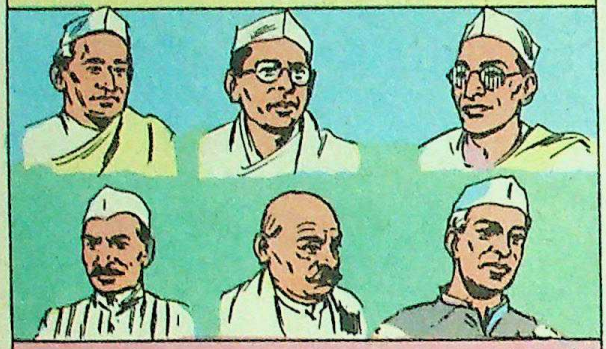


THE NON-CO-OPERATION PROGRAMME LAUNCHED BY GANDHI WAS BASED ON HIS BELIEF IN NON-VIOLENCE. IT MEANT REFUSAL TO CO-OPERATE WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN ANY MANNER AND INVOLVED THE BOYCOTT OF BRITISH COURTS, SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES, THE SURRENDERING OF BRITISH HONOURS AND TITLES AND THE BOYCOTT OF BRITISH GOODS.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Shringeri

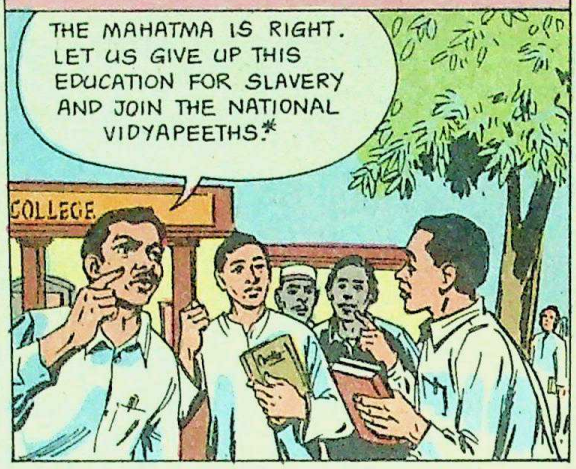
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

LAWYERS IN THEIR HUNDREDS GAVE UP THEIR PRACTICE AND JOINED GANDHI'S MOVEMENT. AMONG THEM WERE MOTILAL NEHRU, C.R. DAS, C. RAJA — GOPALACHARI, RAJENDRA PRASAD, VALLABHBHAI PATEL AND JAWAHARLAL NEHRU.

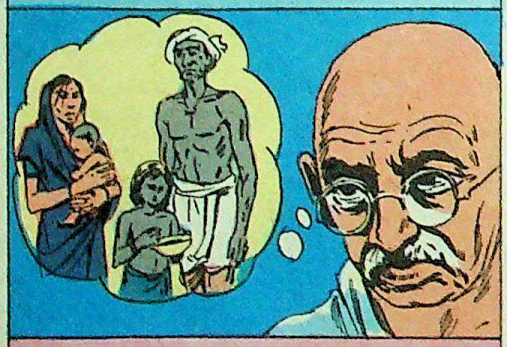


THEY BECAME THE CHIEF GENERALS OF GANDHI'S NON-VIOLENT FIGHT FOR FREEDOM.

HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS HEARING THE CALL OF GANDHI, LEFT THEIR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

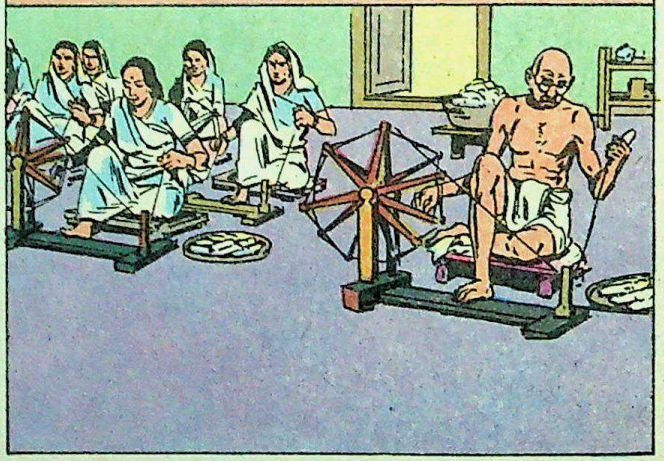


THE POVERTY IN INDIAN VILLAGES DISTURBED GANDHI GREATLY. AS A SOLUTION HE SUGGESTED THE BOYCOTT OF FOREIGN CLOTH AND THE REVIVAL OF THE AGE-OLD COTTAGE INDUSTRIES LIKE SPINNING AND WEAVING.

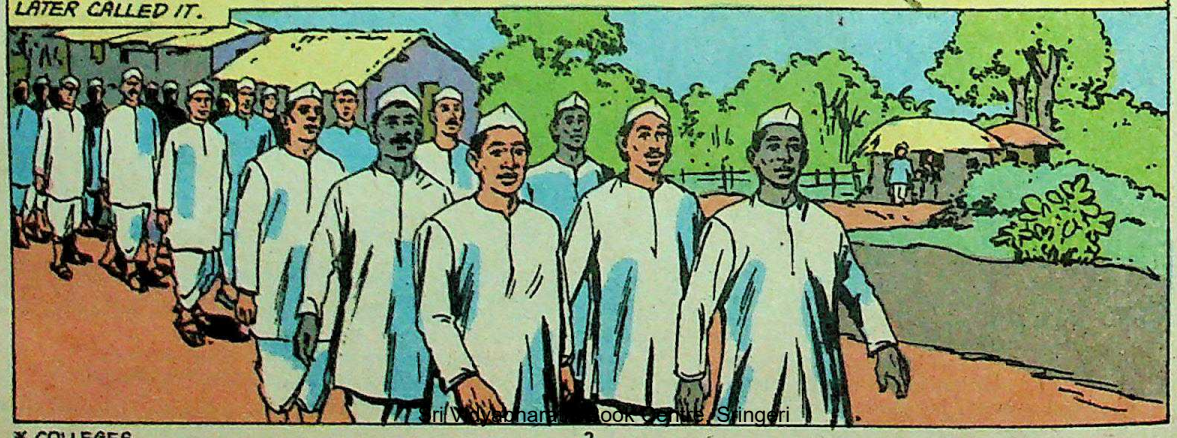


IF PEOPLE TOOK TO KHADI, IT WOULD GIVE EMPLOYEMENT TO THE POOR, HE THOUGHT.

HE URGED THE WELL-TO-DO TO TAKE UP SPINNING AS A DAILY RITUAL IN SERVICE OF THE POOR. IN A FEW YEARS IT BECAME A SYMBOL OF THE IDEALS OF THE FREEDOM STRUGGLE.



KHADI FREED THE PEOPLE FROM THE CULTURAL SLAVERY OF THE ENGLISH AND MADE THEM CONSCIOUS OF THEMSELVES AS INDIANS—GANDHI'S DREAM AS A BOY. AND IT BECAME THE UNIFORM OF GANDHI'S NON-VIOLENT ARMY OF SWARAJ, "THE LIVERY OF FREEDOM" AS JAWAHARLAL NEHRU LATER CALLED IT.



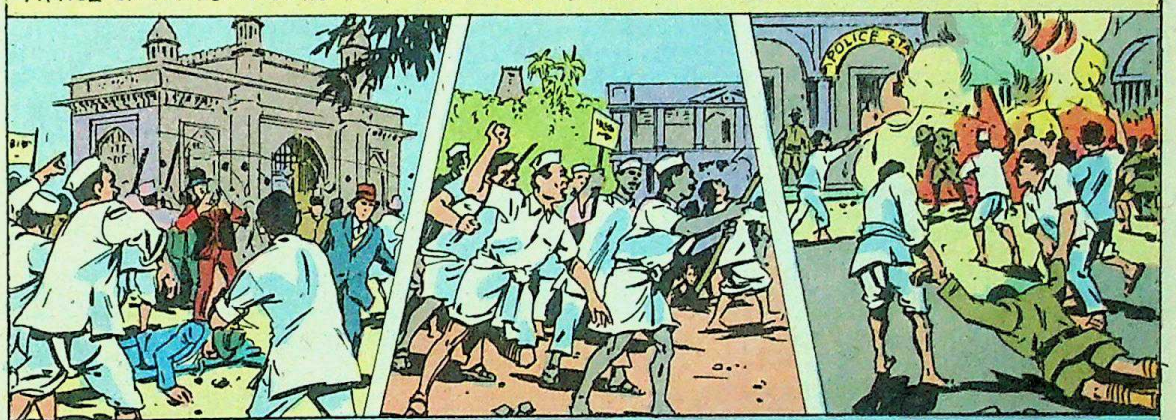
Sri Vidyatirtha Book Centre, Sringeri

* COLLEGES

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

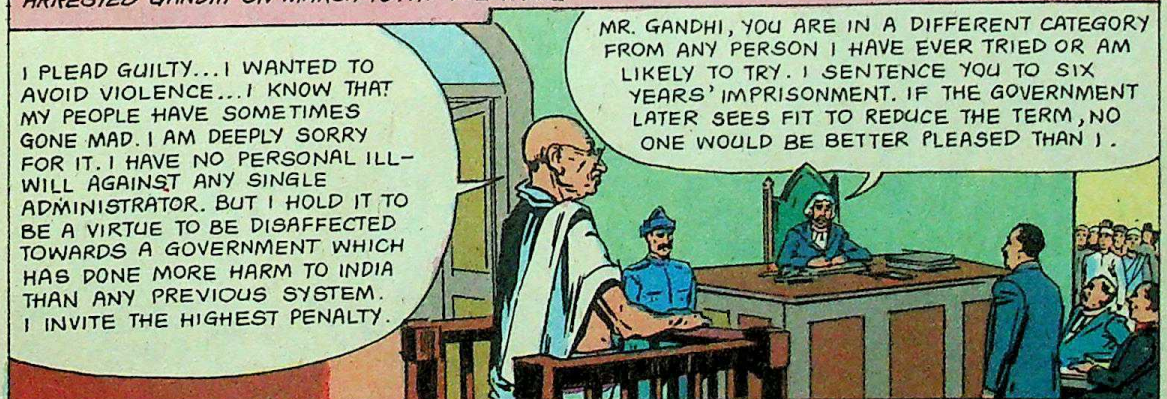
GANDHI TRAVELLED FOR A WHOLE YEAR THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO PROPAGATE HIS IDEAS. AND THE MASSES WERE STIRRED BY HIS MESSAGE.

BUT PEOPLE HAD NOT YET LEARNT THE LESSON OF NON-VIOLENCE. ON THE ARRIVAL OF THE PRINCE OF WALES IN BOMBAY ON NOVEMBER 17, 1921, RIOTS BROKE OUT IN THE CITY.



THERE WERE VIOLENT INCIDENTS IN MADRAS IN JANUARY 1922, AND THEN IN CHAURI CHAURA NEAR GORAKHPUR IN UTTAR PRADESH IN FEBRUARY. AS IN APRIL 1919, THIS TIME ALSO GANDHI DECIDED TO SUSPEND THE NON-CO-OPERATION MOVEMENT.

THE SUDDEN SUSPENSION OF THE NON-CO-OPERATION MOVEMENT BY GANDHI, CAUSED CONFUSION AND DIVISION AMONG HIS FOLLOWERS. TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE SITUATION, THE GOVERNMENT ARRESTED GANDHI ON MARCH 10. AT THE TRIAL —



AFTER TWO YEARS IN YERAVDA PRISON, GANDHI HAD TO UNDERGO AN OPERATION FOR APPENDICITIS, AFTER WHICH HE WAS RELEASED. THOUGH FREE, FOR THE REMAINING FOUR YEARS, GANDHI CARRIED ON NO ACTIVE AGITATION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. INSTEAD, HE DEVOTED HIS TIME TO SPREADING KHADI AND THE REMOVAL OF UNTOUCHABILITY.

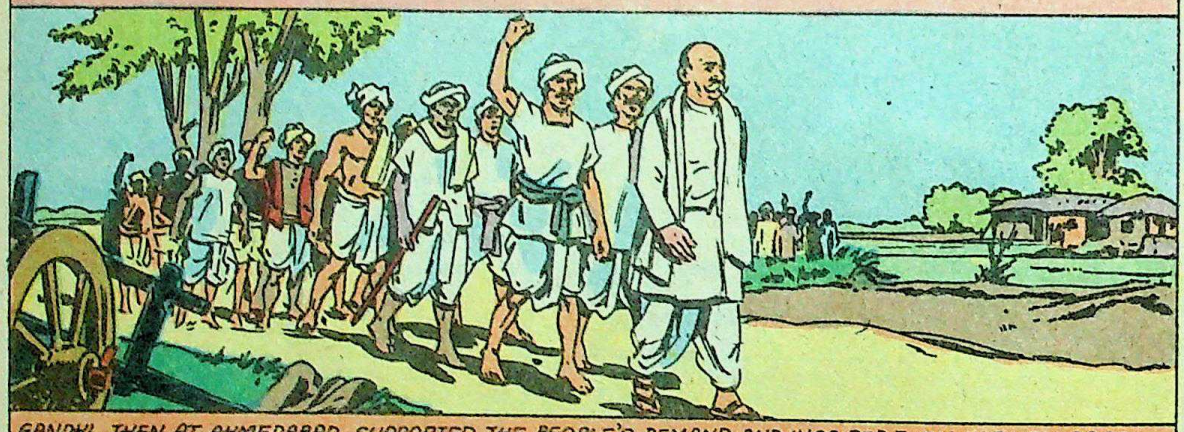
Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

THEN IN FEBRUARY 1928, THE SIMON COMMISSION, APPOINTED BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, CAME TO INDIA TO SEE WHAT FURTHER POLITICAL REFORMS MIGHT BE GRANTED. THERE WAS NO INDIAN ON THE COMMISSION. ALL PARTIES IN THE COUNTRY BOYCOTTED IT. WHEREVER IT WENT —

PATRIOTS WHO TOOK OUT PROCESSIONS OF PROTEST WERE BEATEN MERCILESSLY. IN LAHORE, LALA LAJPATRAI WAS WOUNDED BY THE POLICE DURING A BOYCOTT PROCESSION. HE DIED A FEW DAYS LATER.

MEANWHILE IN BARDOLI, GUJARAT, PEASANTS ROSE IN REVOLT AGAINST THE UNJUST INCREASE IN LAND TAXES LEVIED BY THE GOVERNMENT. LED BY VALLABHBHAI PATEL, THEY REFUSED TO PAY THE TAXES.



GANDHI, THEN AT AHMEDABAD, SUPPORTED THE PEOPLE'S DEMAND AND INSPIRED THEM WITH COURAGE.

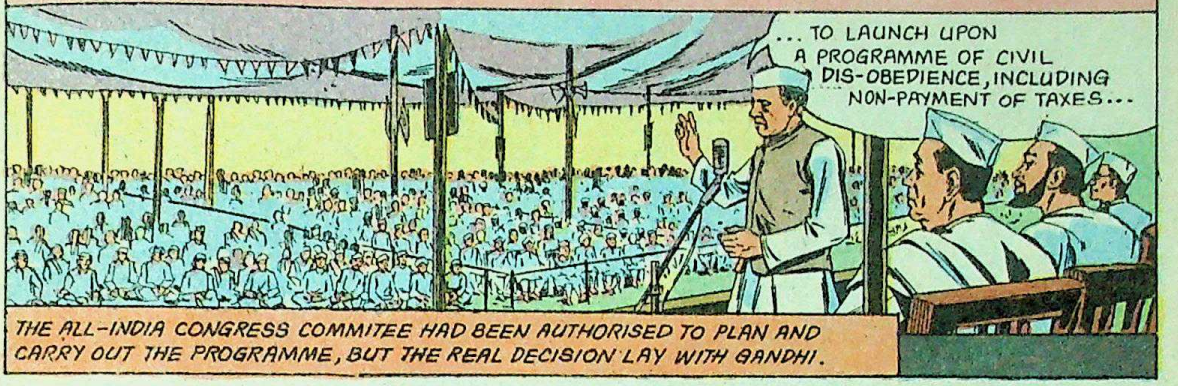
TO BREAK THEIR SPIRIT, THE GOVERNMENT CONFISCATED THEIR LANDS, HOUSEHOLD GOODS AND EVEN THEIR BUFFALOES.

THE PEACEFUL SATYAGRAHA WAS A VICTORY AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT'S AUTOCRACY. THE GOVERNMENT APPOINTED AN INQUIRY COMMITTEE WHICH UPHELD THE CASE OF THE PEASANTS OF BARDOLI. THE ENTIRE NATION WAS INSPIRED BY THE SUCCESS OF BARDOLI AND THE EXPERIMENT OF SATYAGRAHA. IT NOW PREPARED FOR THE GREATER BATTLE OF SWARAJ, WITH THE SAME WEAPON OF NON-VIOLENT SATYAGRAHA THAT BARDOLI HAD USED.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

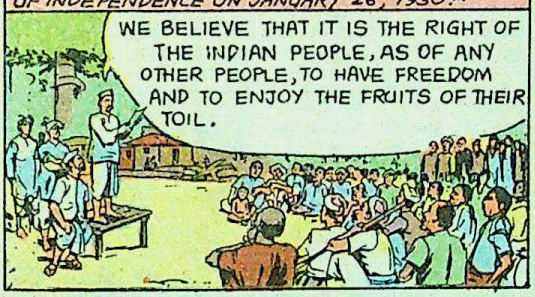
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

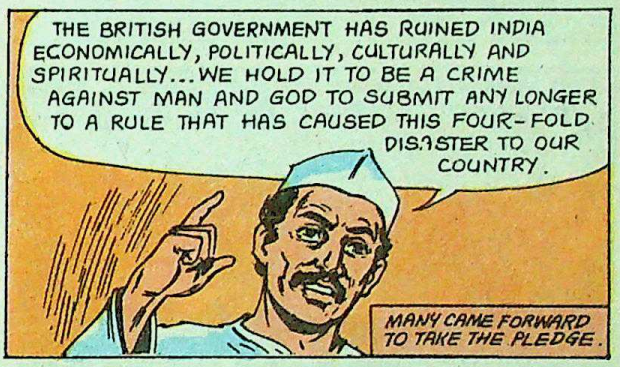
... AND AT THE STROKE OF MIDNIGHT ON DECEMBER 31, 1929, THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS, WITH JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PRESIDING, DECLARED COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE, OR POORNA SWARAJ, AS THE GOAL OF INDIA. IN ORDER TO ATTAIN IT...



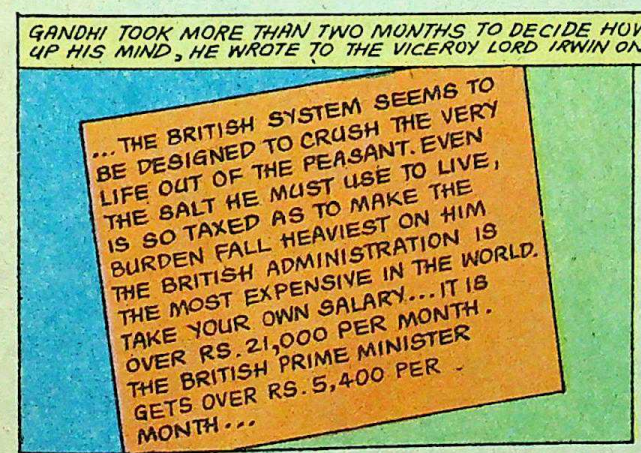
THE ALL-INDIA CONGRESS COMMITEE HAD BEEN AUTHORISED TO PLAN AND CARRY OUT THE PROGRAMME, BUT THE REAL DECISION LAY WITH GANDHI.

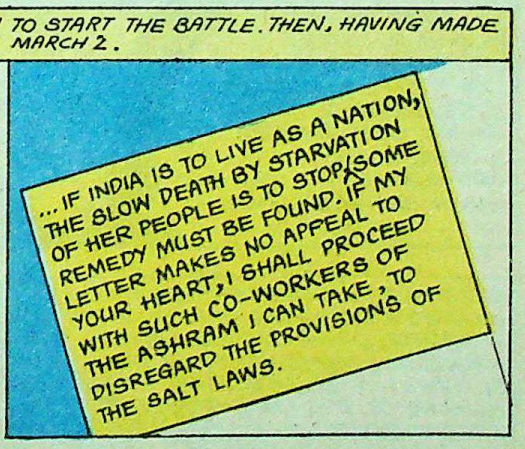
AND GANDHI, AS A FIRST STEP IN THE COMING BATTLE, ASKED THE PEOPLE TO TAKE THE PLEDGE OF INDEPENDENCE ON JANUARY 26, 1930.*





GANDHI TOOK MORE THAN TWO MONTHS TO DECIDE HOW TO START THE BATTLE. THEN, HAVING MADE UP HIS MIND, HE WROTE TO THE VICEROY LORD IRWIN ON MARCH 2.





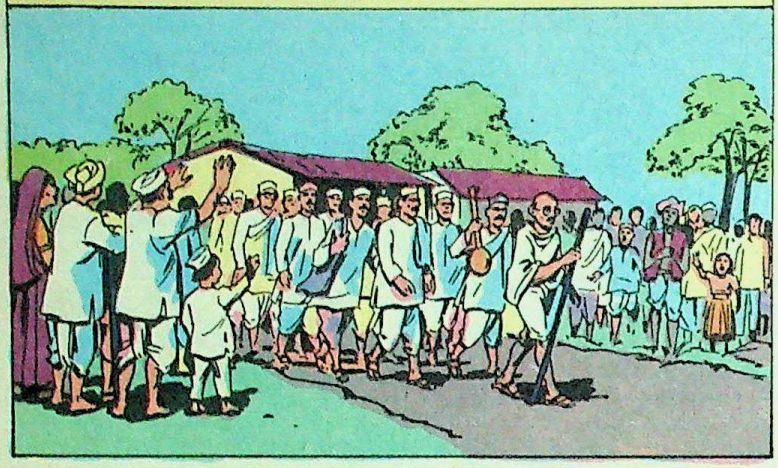
GANDHI'S LETTER DID NOT APPEAL TO THE VICEROY'S HEART. AND SO CAME THE MEMORABLE DAY IN THE HISTORY OF MODERN INDIA. 12TH MARCH 1930. AT 6.30 IN THE MORNING AT THE ASHRAM, GANDHI ADDRESSED HIS BAND OF SEVENTY-EIGHT SATYAGRAHIS. WHAT THEY WERE ABOUT TO LAUNCH WAS THE FINAL STRUGGLE.

Sri Vidyaranya Book Centre, Singeri

*TWENTY YEARS LATER, IN 1950, THE INDEPENDENCE DAY OF 1930 BECAME THE REPUBLIC DAY OF FREE INDIA.

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

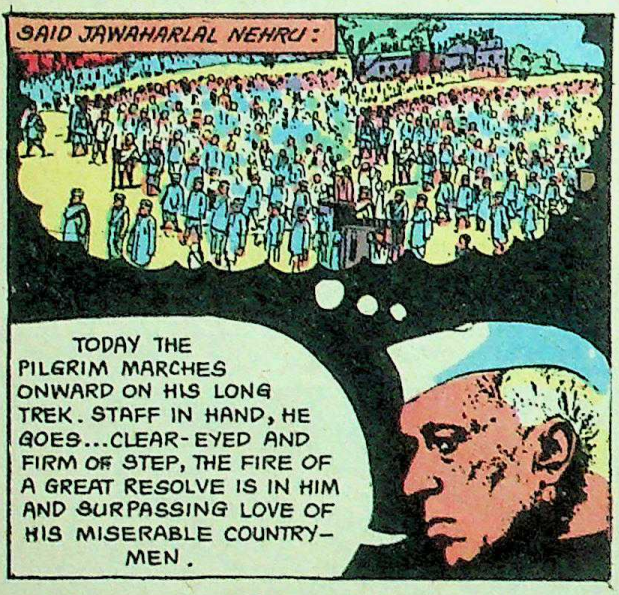
AS THE SIXTYONE-YEAR-OLD GANDHI STEPPED OUT OF THE ASHRAM, A GREAT SHIVER OF EXCITEMENT RAN THROUGH THE CROWD.



WROTE THE "BOMBAY CHRONICLE":

THE SCENES THAT PRECEDED, ACCOMPANIED AND FOLLOWED THIS NATIONAL EVENT WERE SO MAGNIFICENT AND SOUL-STIRRING THAT THEY BEGGAR DESCRIPTION.

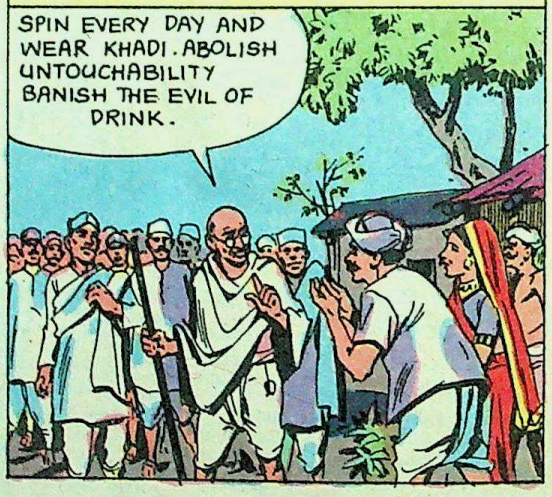
SAID JAWAHARLAL NEHRU:



TODAY THE PILGRIM MARCHES ONWARD ON HIS LONG TREK. STAFF IN HAND, HE GOES...CLEAR-EYED AND FIRM OF STEP, THE FIRE OF A GREAT RESOLVE IS IN HIM AND SURPASSING LOVE OF HIS MISERABLE COUNTRY-MEN.

THOUSANDS GATHERED TO WELCOME THE MAHATMA AT EVERY VILLAGE ON THE ROUTE. TO ALL OF THEM GANDHI SAID THE SAME THING-

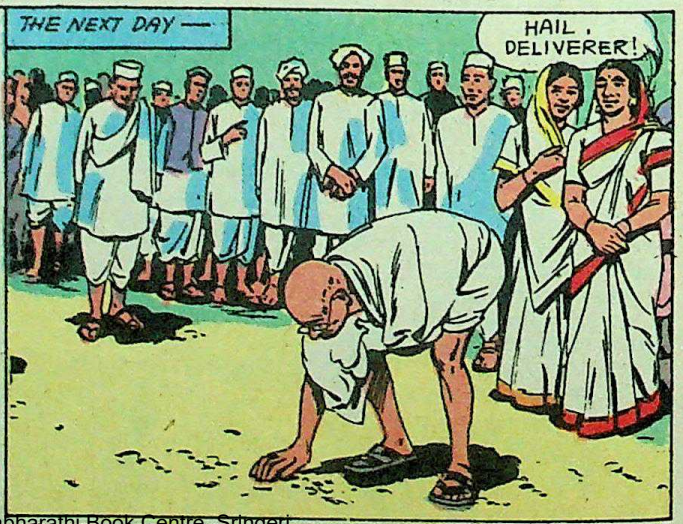
SPIN EVERY DAY AND WEAR KHADI. ABOLISH UNTOUCHABILITY BANISH THE EVIL OF DRINK.



WALKING A DISTANCE OF THREE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY FIVE KM IN TWENTY-FOUR DAYS, GANDHI AND HIS SATYAGRAHIS ARRIVED AT DANDI ON THE SEACOAST OF SOUTH GUJARAT ON THE MORNING OF 5 TH APRIL.

THE NEXT DAY —

HAIL, DELIVERER!

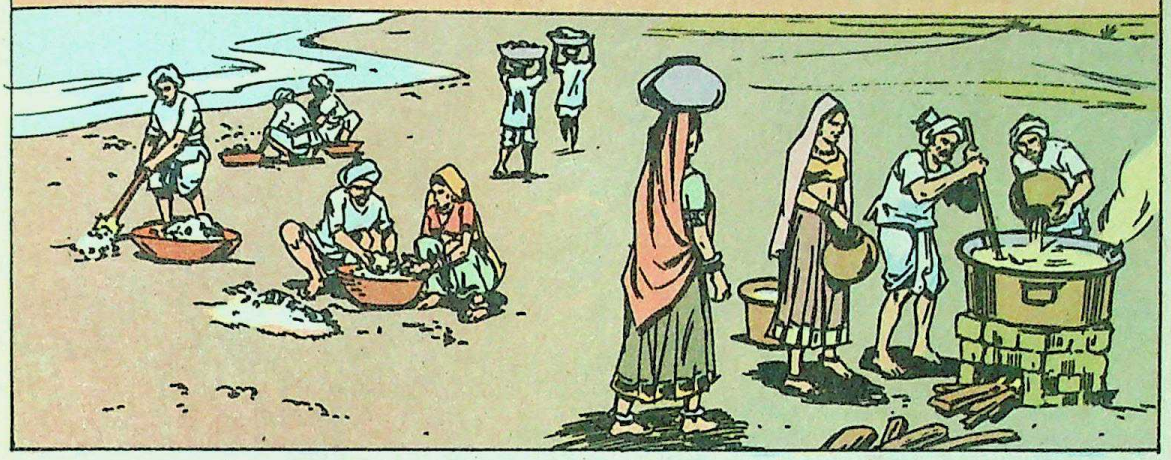


* 6 TH APRIL TO 13 TH APRIL WAS OBSERVED AS NATIONAL WEEK IN MEMORY OF THE EVENTS LEADING TO THE JALLIANWALLA BAGH EPISODE IN 1919.

Sri Vidyaharanya Book Centre, Sringeri

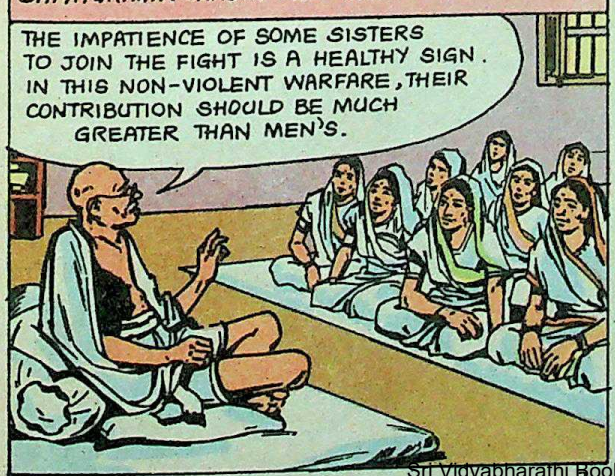
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

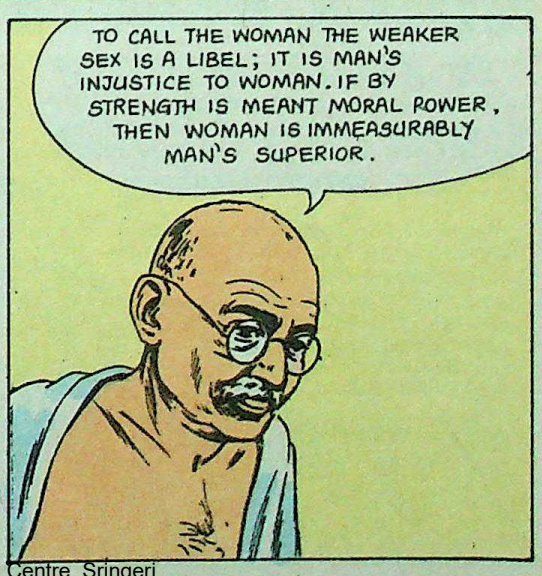
ALL INDIA WAS EXCITED. THE MAKING OF ILLEGAL SALT BECAME A WAY OF PROTEST ALONG THE SEACOAST. INDIANS BEGAN TO MAKE AND SELL SALT.



THE GOVERNMENT, ALARMED BY THIS FEARLESS DEFIANCE, TRIED TO STOP THE MOVEMENT USING HARSH METHODS.

THE WOMEN OF GUJARAT, FIRED BY THE SPIRIT OF PATRIOTISM, WANTED TO JOIN GANDHI'S BATTLE OF SATYAGRAHA. GANDHI TOLD THEM —

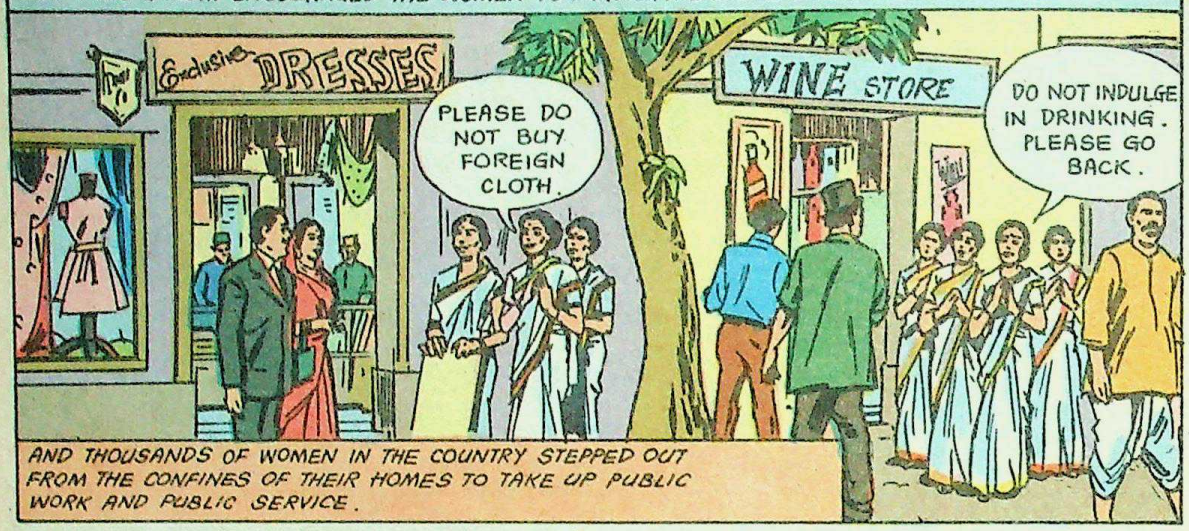




Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

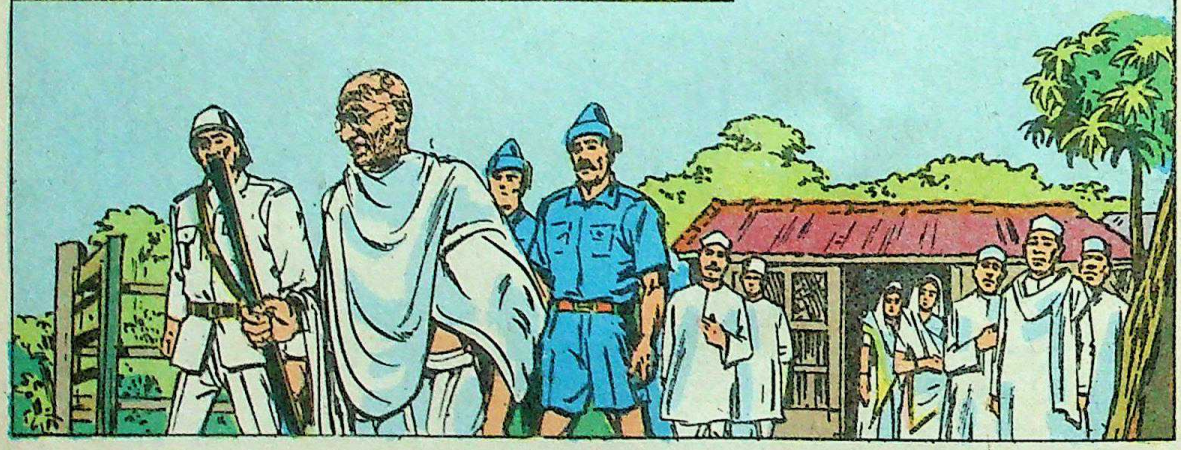
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

AND THUS GANDHI ENCOURAGED THE WOMEN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SATYAGRAHA MOVEMENT.

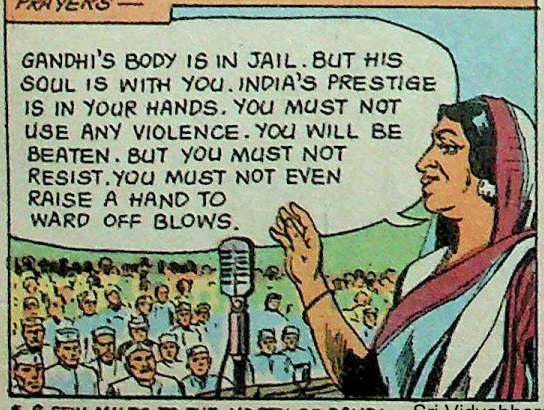


AND THOUSANDS OF WOMEN IN THE COUNTRY STEPPED OUT FROM THE CONFINES OF THEIR HOMES TO TAKE UP PUBLIC WORK AND PUBLIC SERVICE.

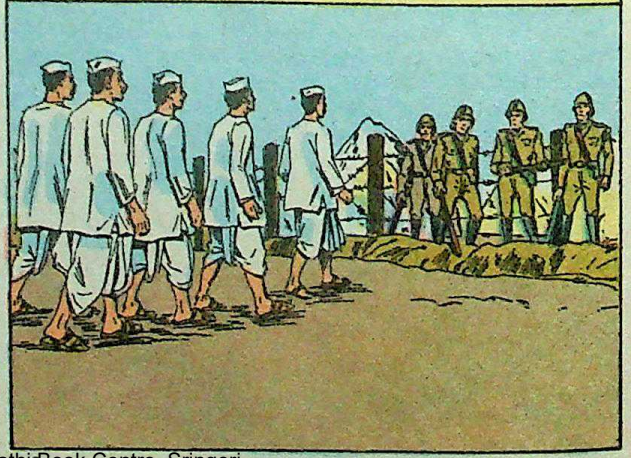
GANDHI TERMED THE POLICE BRUTALITIES THAT FOLLOWED THE DANDI MARCH AS "GOONDA RAAJ." ON MAY 3, HE WROTE TO THE VICEROY OF HIS INTENTION TO RAID THE GOVERNMENT SALT WORKS AT DHARASANA.* HE WAS ARRESTED THE VERY NEXT DAY...



...AND THE SATYAGRAHI RAID WAS LED BY SAROJINI NAIDU. ON THE MORNING OF MAY 21, A DISCIPLINED ARMY OF 2,500 SATYAGRAHI HEROES GOT READY FOR THE ATTACK. AFTER PRAYERS —



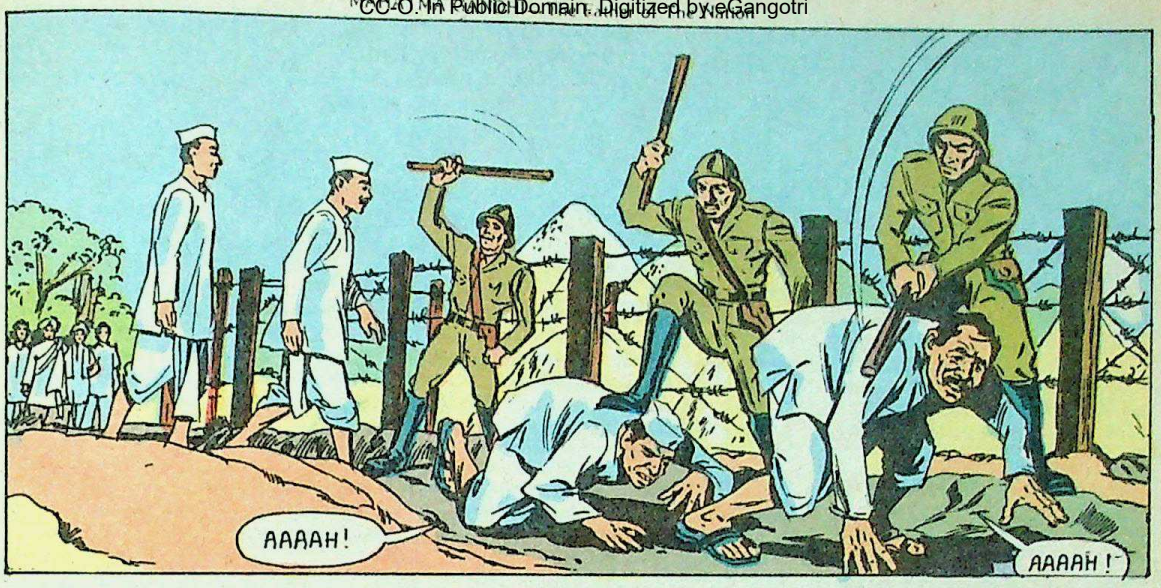
THE SATYAGRAHI RAID BEGAN. THE FIRST BATCH OF VOLUNTEERS MOVED FORWARD.

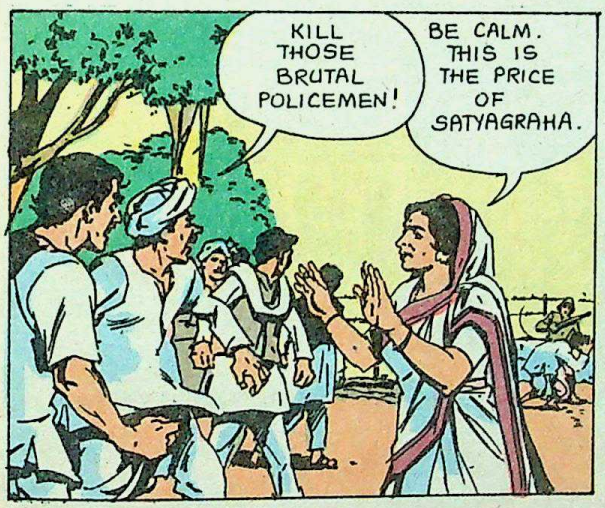


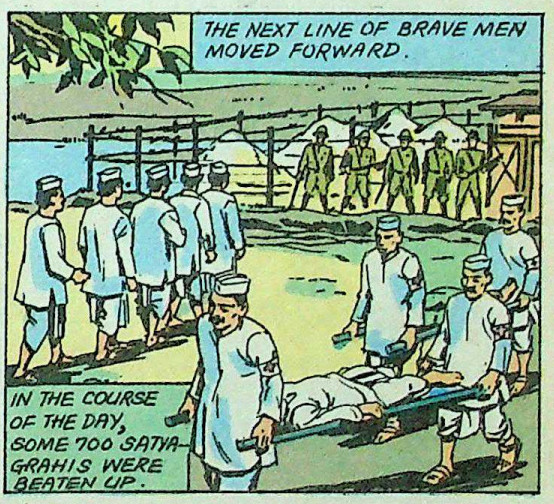
* A FEW MILES TO THE NORTH OF DANDI.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

MAHATMA Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri
CC-0. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri







THE DHARASANA RAIDS SOON STOPPED, BUT THE SALT SATYAGRAHA CONTINUED. GRADUALLY BRITISH PUBLIC OPINION UNDERWENT A CHANGE. GANDHI WAS RELEASED ON INDEPENDENCE DAY— JANUARY 26, 1931. HE WAS INVITED FOR TALKS BY LORD IRWIN AT THE VICEREGAL PALACE ON FEBRUARY 17.

MANY ENGLISHMEN, INCLUDING CHURCHILL, WERE AGAINST THE IDEA OF "A HALF-NAKED FAKIR" BEING TREATED BY THE VICEROY. BUT LORD IRWIN WAS FRIENDLY. WHEN TEA WAS SERVED —

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

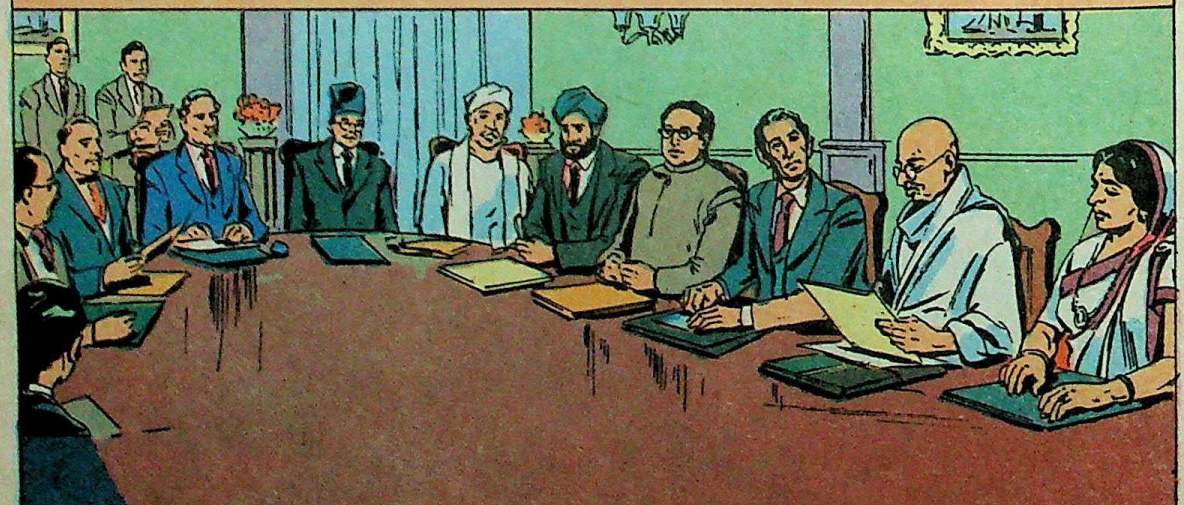
* IN 1773 THE AMERICANS HAD THROWN ENGLISH TEA BOXES INTO THE SEA AT BOSTON HARBOUR IN PROTEST AGAINST THE TAX ON TEA.

amar chitra katha
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

THE TWO LEADERS SIGNED THE GANDHI-IRWIN PACT. GANDHI, ON BEHALF OF THE CONGRESS, AGREED TO STOP CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE, AND THE VICEROY AGREED TO RELEASE THE SATYAGRAHI PRISONERS, TO PERMIT PEACEFUL PICKETING OF FOREIGN CLOTH SHOPS AND LIQUOR BOOTHS, TO RETURN GOODS AND LANDS CONFISCATED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF LAND REVENUE AND TO PERMIT MAKING OF SALT ON SEA-COASTS BY LOCAL RESIDENTS FOR THEIR PRIVATE USE.

AS DECIDED IN THE PACT, GANDHI ATTENDED THE SECOND ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE TO DECIDE INDIA'S FUTURE. HE ARRIVED IN ENGLAND IN SEPTEMBER 1931 BY THE S.S. RAJPUTANA. HE STAYED AS A GUEST IN KINGSLEY HALL, A SETTLEMENT OF CHILDREN IN THE POOR EAST END QUARTER OF LONDON. AS HE TOOK HIS MORNING WALKS —

THE CONFERENCE FAILED. THE INDIAN DELEGATES HAD BEEN CAREFULLY SELECTED BY THE VICEROY TO REPRESENT VARIOUS GROUPS AND INTERESTS, NOT INDIA AS A WHOLE.



THEY REPRESENTED INDIA AS A HOUSE DIVIDED AGAINST ITSELF.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

IN CONTRAST —

THE CONGRESS REPRESENTS NO PARTICULAR COMMUNITY, NO PARTICULAR INTEREST. IT CLAIMS TO REPRESENT ALL INDIAN INTERESTS AND ALL CLASSES. ABOVE ALL, THE DUMB, SEMI-STARVED MILLIONS IN 7,00,000 VILLAGES...

DURING THIS VISIT, GANDHI MET A LARGE NUMBER OF ENGLISHMEN, IN PUBLIC LIFE, AND PROFESSORS AT THE UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE AND GAINED THE LOVE AND RESPECT OF ALL.

...OF ALL INDIANS, YOU ARE THE ONE THAT THE REAL ENGLISHMAN LIKES AND UNDERSTANDS.

NO MATTER WHAT BEFALLS ME, ONE THING I SHALL CERTAINLY CARRY WITH ME, THAT IS THAT FROM HIGH TO LOW, I HAVE FOUND NOTHING BUT THE UTMOST COURTESY AND THE UTMOST AFFECTION. IT HAS DEEPENED MY FAITH IN HUMAN NATURE.

BUT BACK IN INDIA, THE VICEROY, LORD WILLINGDON, AND THE BRITISH OFFICIALS WERE NOT FRIENDLY. ALARMED BY THE SPREADING UNREST IN THE U.P., THE FRONTIER PROVINCE AND BENGAL, THE VICEROY DECIDED TO CRUSH THE CONGRESS. JAWAHARLAL NEHRU AND KHAN ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN WERE ARRESTED...

...AND PROCLAIMED REPRESSIVE ORDINANCES IN THE THREE PROVINCES.

GANDHI LANDED IN BOMBAY ON THE MORNING OF DECEMBER 28, 1931, AND IN THE EVENING, ADDRESSED A HUGE MASS MEETING ON THE AZAD MAIDAN.

LAST YEAR WE FACED LATHIS, BUT THIS TIME WE MUST BE PREPARED TO FACE BULLETS... IF THERE IS TO BE A FIGHT, BE PREPARED FOR EVERY SACRIFICE.

GANDHI REQUESTED AN INTERVIEW WITH THE VICEROY TO DISCUSS HOW THE STATE OF PEACE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE CONGRESS COULD BE CONTINUED. THE VICEROY ARROGANTLY REFUSED THE REQUEST AND, INSTEAD, ARRESTED GANDHI ON JANUARY 4, 1932. AND SO THE SATYAGRAHA STARTED AGAIN AND THOUSANDS WERE JAILED IN A FEW MONTHS INCLUDING ALL CONGRESS LEADERS.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

WHILE GANDHI WAS IN JAIL, THE BRITISH PRIME MINISTER, RAMSAY MACDONALD, ANNOUNCED HIS DECISION, KNOWN AS THE COMMUNAL AWARD, GIVING SEPARATE ELECTORATES TO MUSLIMS, SIKHS AND THE DEPRESSED CLASSES*. THIS MEANT THAT THESE COMMUNITIES WOULD ELECT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES IN THE FUTURE LEGISLATURES. THIS ALSO MEANT THAT THE DIVISION OF PEOPLE INTO COMMUNITIES AND CLASSES WOULD GET STRENGTHENED.

I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SEPARATE ELECTORATES FOR HARIJANS WOULD BE FOR THEIR GOOD. IT WOULD HARM THE MOVEMENT OF REFORM AMONG HINDUS FOR ENDING THE PRACTICE OF UNTOUCHABILITY.

GANDHI'S STRONG REACTION TO THE AWARD BECAME A TOPIC OF DISCUSSION.

MAHATMA GANDHI SAYS: "WILL UNTOUCHABLES REMAIN UNTOUCHABLES FOREVER? I WOULD FAR RATHER THAT HINDUISM DIED THAN THAT UNTOUCHABILITY LIVED."

IN PROTEST AGAINST THE COMMUNAL AWARD, GANDHI WENT ON AN INDEFINITE FAST.

AT HIS SCHOOL, SANTINIKETAN, RABINDRANATH TAGORE SAID TO HIS STUDENTS—

A SHADOW IS DARKENING TODAY OVER INDIA LIKE A SHADOW CAST BY AN ECLIPSED SUN.

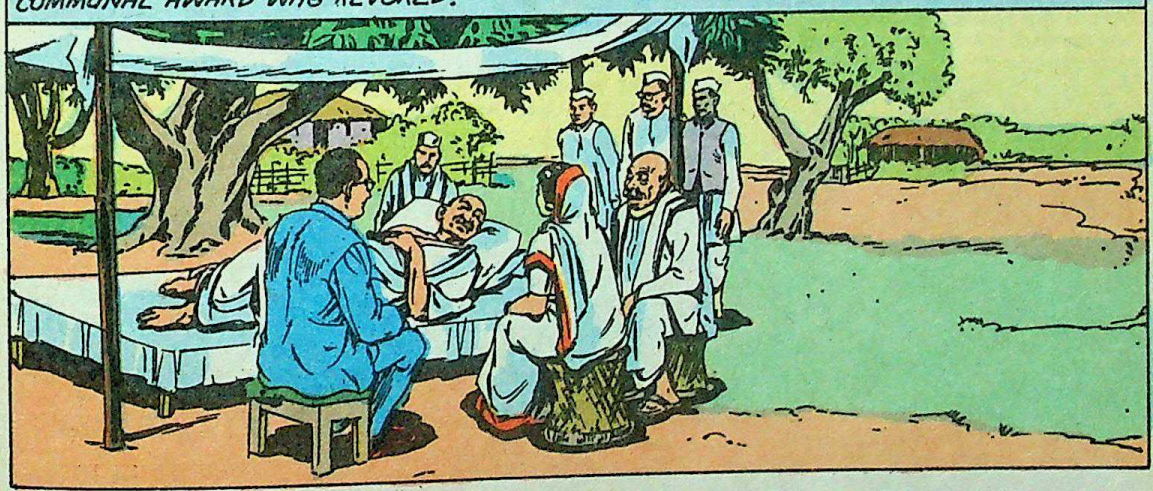
* THE 'UNTOUCHABLES'.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

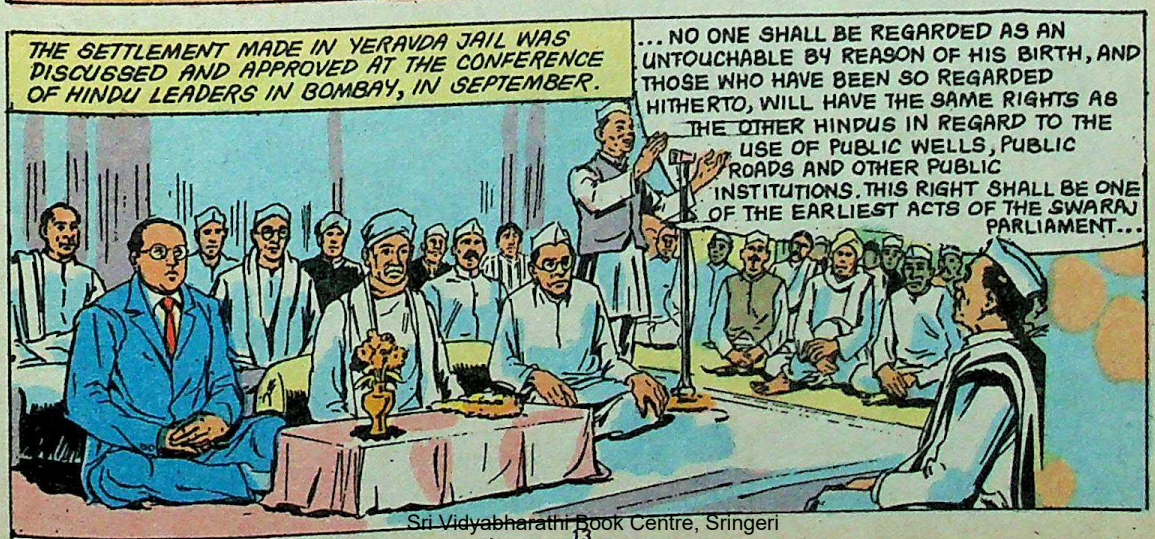
CC-0. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

AND IT HAPPENED. THERE WAS A GREAT WAVE OF AWAKENING AGAINST UNTOUCHABILITY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. SOME WELL-KNOWN TEMPLES OPENED THEIR DOORS TO HARIJANS, AND ENTHUSIASTIC REFORMERS ARRANGED JOINT DINNERS OF CASTE HINDUS AND HARIJANS.

FOR GANDHI, WHOSE CONDITION WAS BY NOW CRITICAL, IT WAS 'A MODERN MIRACLE'. TO THE NATIONAL LEADERS HE CONVEYED HIS DECISION TO FAST UNTO DEATH, UNLESS THE COMMUNAL AWARD WAS REVOKED.



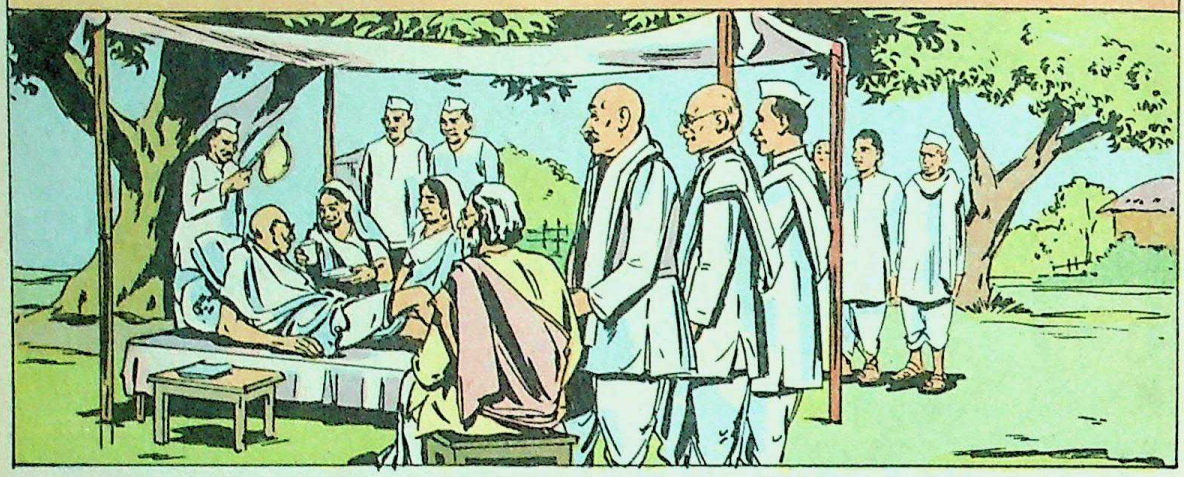
THE SETTLEMENT MADE IN YERAVDA JAIL WAS DISCUSSED AND APPROVED AT THE CONFERENCE OF HINDU LEADERS IN BOMBAY, IN SEPTEMBER.



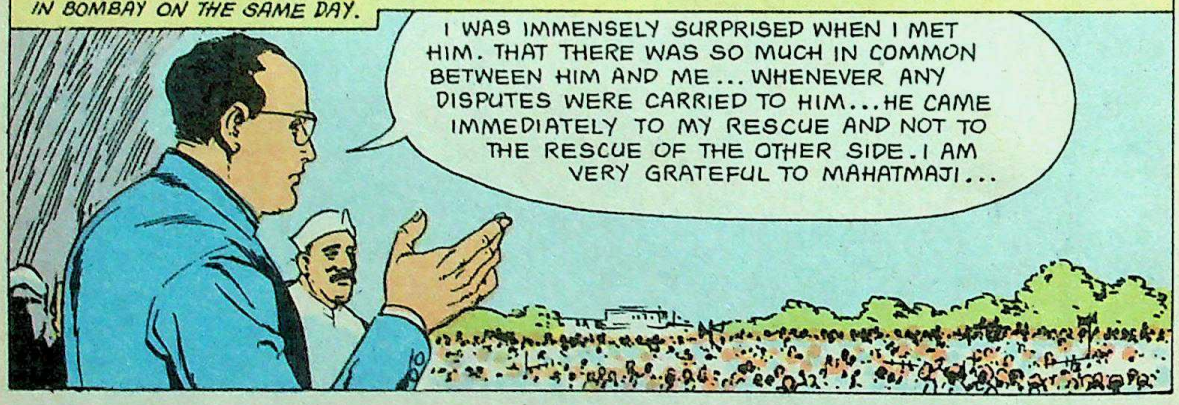
Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

amar chitra katha
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

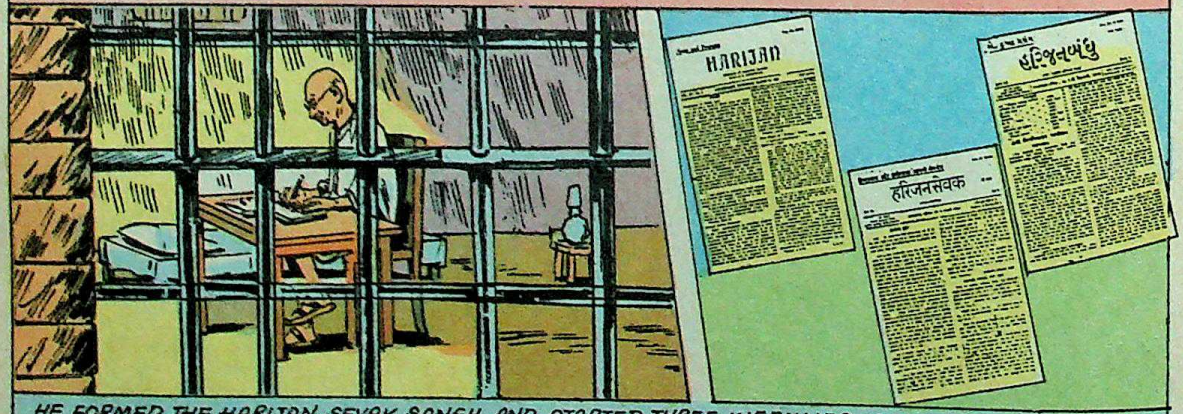
AFTER FOUR DAYS OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE LEADERS AND DR. B.R. AMBEDKAR, A SETTLEMENT WAS REACHED ON SEPTEMBER 25 AND THE PRIME MINISTER INFORMED OF IT. WHEN THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ACCEPTED THE TERMS OF THE POONA PACT, GANDHI BROKE HIS FAST ON THE AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 26, 1932.



DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS, GANDHI HAD OFFERED DR. AMBEDKAR MORE THAN HE HAD AGREED TO ACCEPT FROM THE HINDU LEADERS. DR. AMBEDKAR PRAISED GANDHI FOR THIS AT A PUBLIC MEETING HELD IN BOMBAY ON THE SAME DAY.



FOR GANDHI THE POONA PACT WAS ONLY A BEGINNING. EVEN WHILE IN JAIL, HE ISSUED STATEMENTS, LETTERS AND MESSAGES TO GUIDE PEOPLE IN REMOVING UNTOUCHABILITY IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

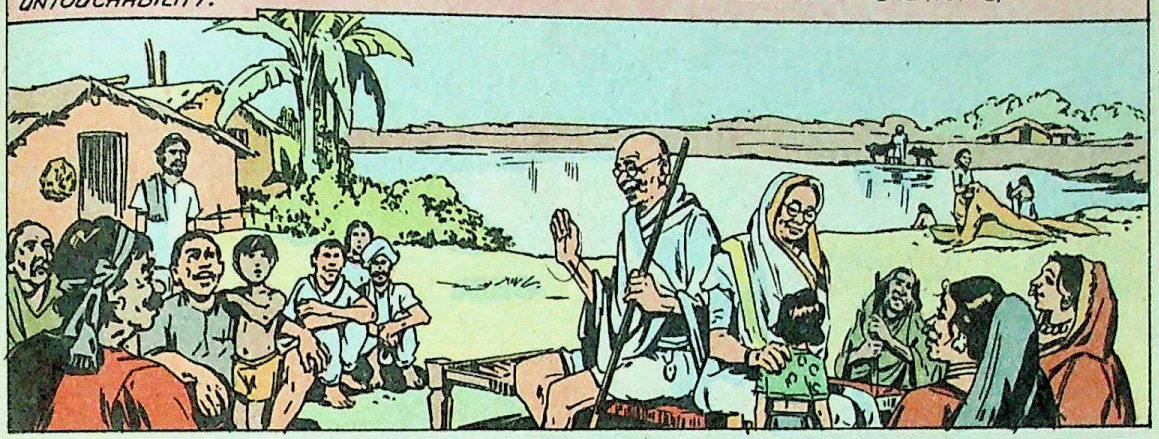


HE FORMED THE HARIJAN SEVAK SANGH, AND STARTED THREE WEEKLIES TO PROPAGATE THE MESSAGE OF ANTI-UNTOUCHABILITY: THE 'HARIJAN' IN ENGLISH, THE 'HARIJAN SEVAK' IN HINDI, AND THE 'HARIJAN BANDHU' IN GUJARATI.

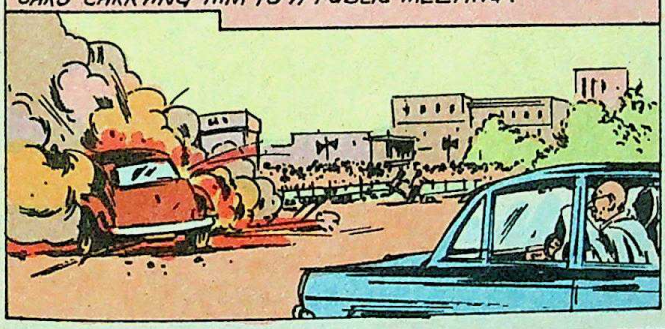
Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

THOUGH HE WAS RELEASED ON MAY 8, 1933, HE SERVED TWO MORE TERMS IN PRISON AND WAS FINALLY RELEASED IN AUGUST 1933. HE UNDERTOOK A NINE MONTHS' TOUR OF THE COUNTRY, FROM NOVEMBER 1933 TO JUNE 1934, COVERING NEARLY 20,000 KM AND COLLECTED 8 LAKHS FOR HARIJAN UPLIFTMENT WORK AND FOR THE PROPAGATION OF HIS MESSAGE OF ABOLITION OF UNTOUCHABILITY.



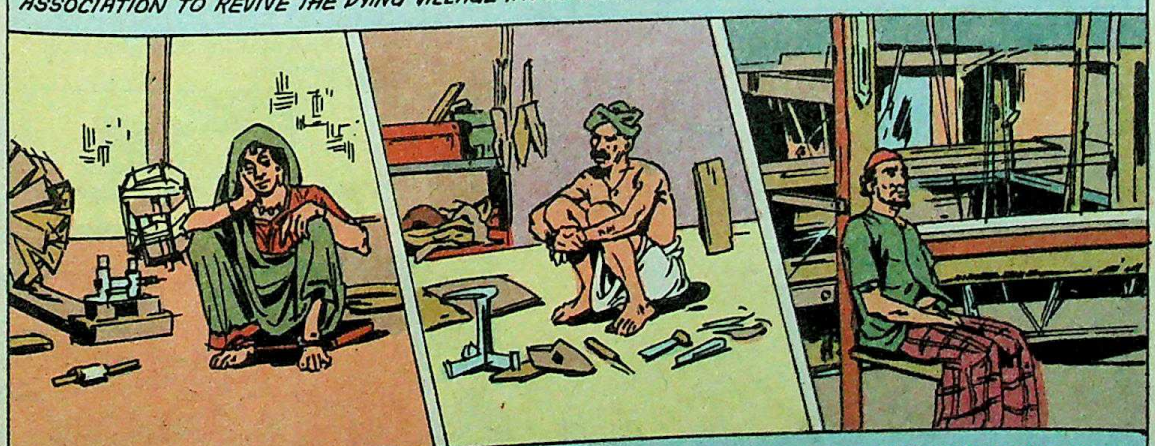
AT ONE PLACE IN BIHAR, HIS CAR WAS ATTACKED ON THE HOOD WITH A LATHI BY THE ORTHODOX, AND A STONE HIT THE GLASS BEHIND THE SEAT. AND IN PUNE, ON JUNE 25, 1934, A BOMB WAS THROWN AT ONE OF THE CARS CARRYING HIM TO A PUBLIC MEETING.



WROTE GANDHI IN 'HARIJAN'—

I HAVE NOTHING BUT DEEP PITY FOR THE UNKNOWN THROWER OF THE BOMB... LET THE REFORMERS NOT BE INCENSED AGAINST THE BOMB-THROWER OR THOSE WHO MAY BE BEHIND HIM.

AFTER THE TOUR, GANDHI RETIRED FROM ACTIVE POLITICS, GUIDING THE CONGRESS FROM OUTSIDE. HE WAS DEEPLY TROUBLED BY THE POVERTY OF THE VILLAGES WHICH HE HAD SEEN DURING THE TOUR, AND GOT THE CONGRESS TO ESTABLISH THE ALL-INDIA VILLAGE INDUSTRIES ASSOCIATION TO REVIVE THE DYING VILLAGE INDUSTRIES.

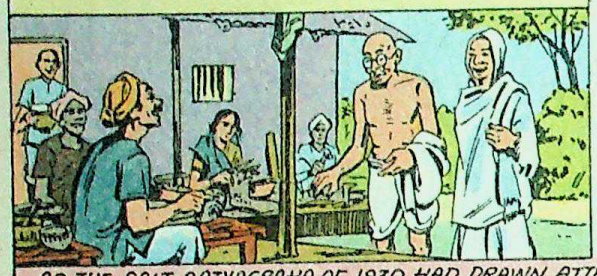


GANDHI'S AIM IN STARTING THE VILLAGE CRAFTS PROGRAMMES WAS NOT ONLY ECONOMICAL, BUT ALSO MORAL. CENTURIES OF OPPRESSION AND POVERTY HAD BROKEN THE SPIRIT OF THE VILLAGE CRAFTSMEN.

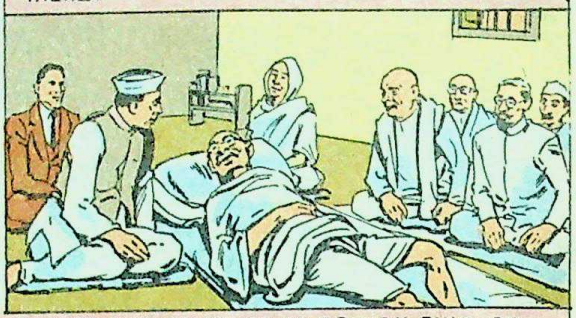
Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

HE BUILT A SMALL COTTAGE FOR HIMSELF AT SEGAON.* HELPING HIM IN THIS REVIVAL OF VILLAGE INDUSTRIES WAS MIRABEHN, AN ENGLISHWOMAN WHO, INSPIRED BY GANDHI'S WORK, HAD COME IN 1925 ALL THE WAY FROM ENGLAND.

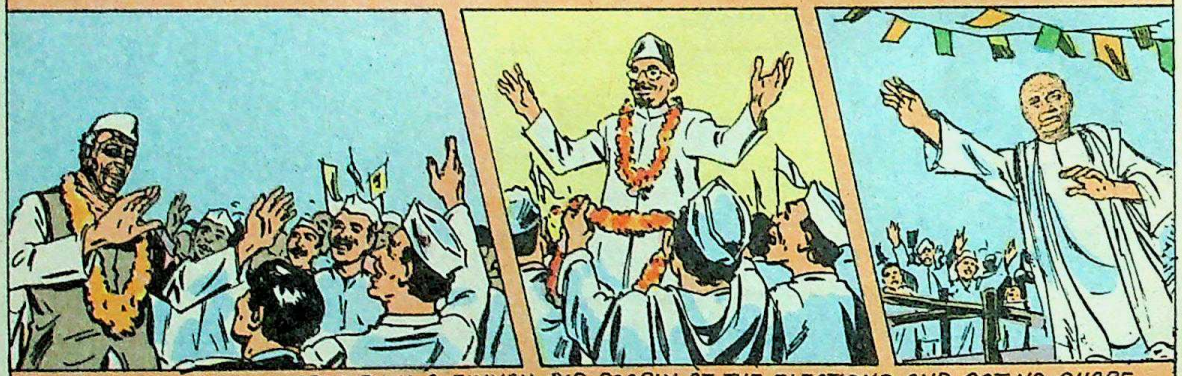


THE COTTAGE GREW INTO A KIND OF RURAL ASHRAM. PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO MEET GANDHI TO DISCUSS ANYTHING WITH HIM GATHERED THERE.



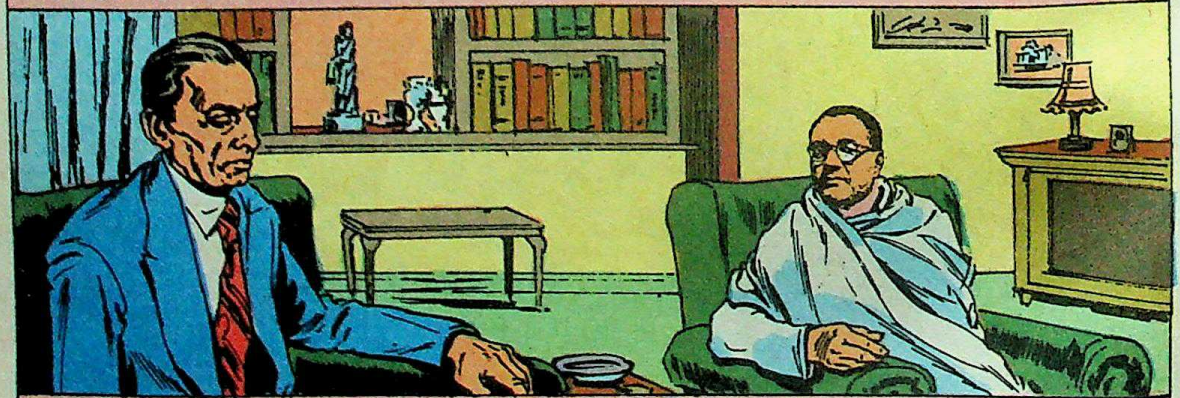
AS THE SALT SATYAGRAHA OF 1930 HAD DRAWN ATTENTION TO THE INJUSTICE OF BRITISH RULE, SO THIS ASHRAM IN THE HEART OF RURAL INDIA, DREW THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNTRY'S LEADERS AND OF THE CITY PEOPLE TO THE CONDITION OF VILLAGES.

AS AN OUTCOME OF THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCES, THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT 1935 WAS PASSED GRANTING PARTIAL AUTONOMY TO THE PROVINCES. THE CONGRESS WON HANDSOMELY IN THE ELECTIONS HELD IN 1937, FORMING MINISTRIES IN EIGHT OUT OF THE ELEVEN PROVINCES IN THE COUNTRY.†



THE MUSLIM LEAGUE, HEADED BY M.A. JINNAH, DID POORLY AT THE ELECTIONS AND GOT NO SHARE OF POWER IN ANY OF THE PROVINCES. ANGRY, JINNAH STARTED A CAMPAIGN AMONG THE MUSLIMS WITH THE CRY, "ISLAM IN DANGER".

CONGRESS PRESIDENT, SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE, MET JINNAH AT HIS RESIDENCE IN BOMBAY, TO DISCUSS HIS DEMANDS, BUT THEY COULD NOT COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING.



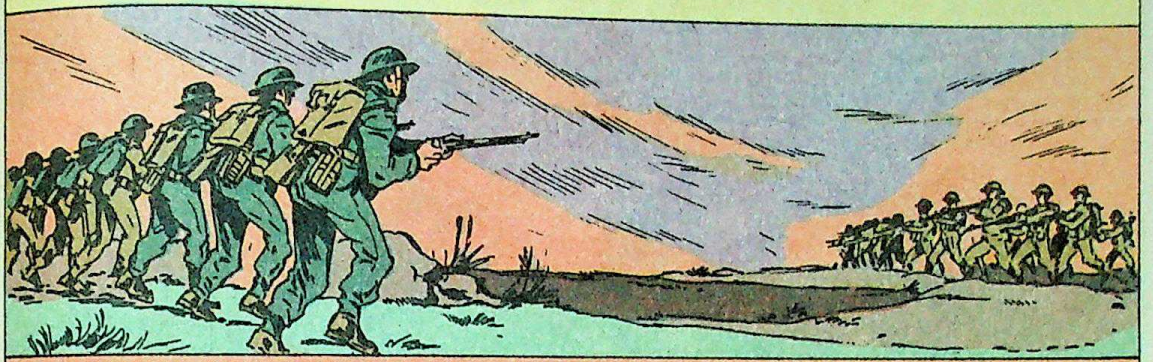
JINNAH'S CAMPAIGN SUCCEEDED SO WELL THAT IN TWO OR THREE YEARS, HE BECAME THE MOST POWERFUL MUSLIM LEADER.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

* A VILLAGE LATER NAMED SEVAGRAM, ABOUT TEN KM FROM WARDHA IN MAHARASHTRA.
† IN ALL PROVINCES EXCEPT BENGAL, THE PUNJAB AND SIND.

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

THEN IN SEPTEMBER 1939 WORLD WAR II BROKE. THE THREAT OF HITLER LOOMED OVER ENGLAND AND FRANCE.

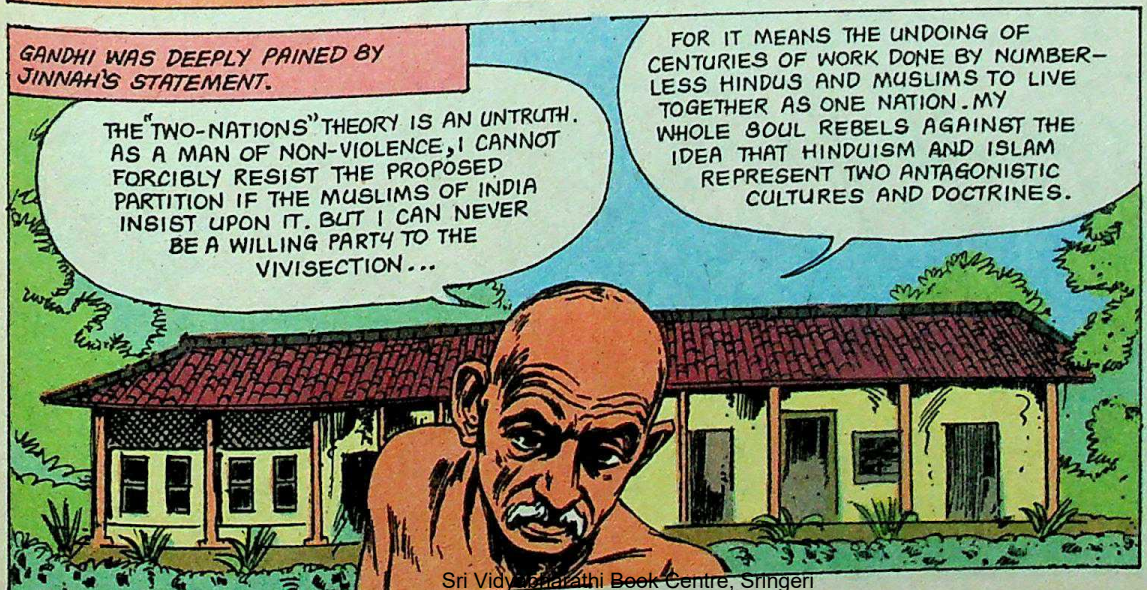


THE CONGRESS ASKED FOR THE PROMISE OF FREEDOM AFTER THE WAR IN RETURN FOR HELP IN THE WAR EFFORT.

WHEN THE BRITISH GOVERMENT REFUSED, THE CONGRESS MINISTRIES RESIGNED. JINNAH CALLED ON THE MUSLIMS TO CELEBRATE DECEMBER 22, 1939 AS "DELIVERANCE DAY"* HE PERSUADED THE MUSLIM LEAGUE SESSION AT LAHORE ON MARCH 24, 1940, TO DEMAND THE PARTITION OF INDIA AND THE FORMATION OF A MUSLIM STATE, PAKISTAN.

JINNAH TERMED THE HINDUS AND THE MUSLIMS 'TWO NATIONS'.

GANDHI WAS DEEPLY PAINED BY JINNAH'S STATEMENT.

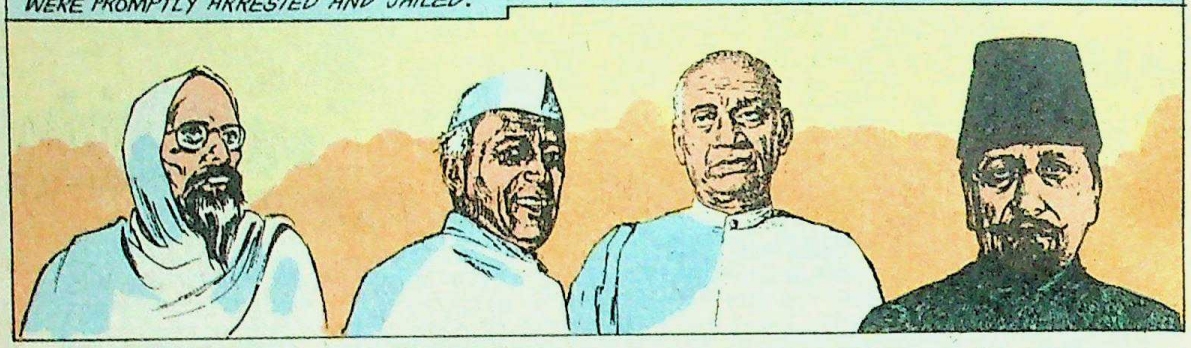


Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

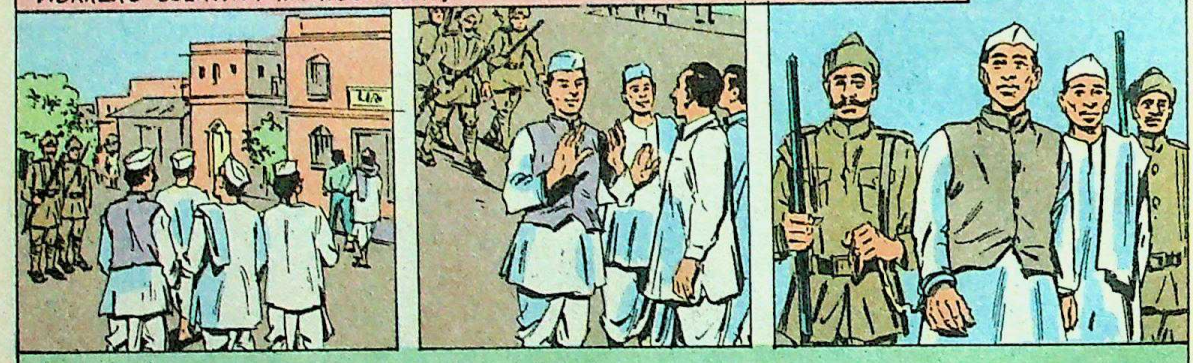
* DAY OF DELIVERANCE FROM THE CONGRESS RULE.

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

IN JUNE 1940, CHURCHILL BECAME THE PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN AND THE HOPE OF THE CONGRESS DEMANDS BEING MET BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT DWINDLED. MASS CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE WAS NOW REPLACED BY INDIVIDUAL SATYAGRAHA. ONE BY ONE SENIOR CONGRESS LEADERS AND PEOPLE WEDDED TO THE GANDHIAN WAY OF LIFE INCLUDING VINOBA BHAVE, JAWAHARLAL NEHRU, VALLABHBHAI PATEL, ABUL KALAM AZAD, WERE PICKED BY GANDHI AS SATYAGRAHIS. THEY GAVE ANTI-WAR SPEECHES AND WERE PROMPTLY ARRESTED AND JAILED.

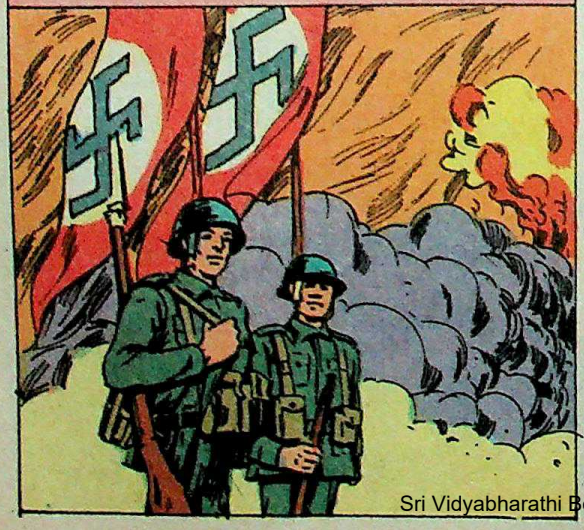


AFTER THE LEADERS FOLLOWED AN UNENDING STREAM OF ORDINARY CONGRESS WORKERS COURTING IMPRISONMENT.



THERE WAS TO BE NO MASS EXCITEMENT AND NO MASS DEMONSTRATION, AS IN 1930, AND NO OBSTRUCTION TO THE WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT.

IN JUNE 1941, HITLER INVADED THE SOVIET UNION AND IN DECEMBER, JAPAN JOINED THE AXIS POWERS, GERMANY AND ITALY. THE WAR BECAME REALLY GLOBAL NOW.



BY MARCH 1942, THE JAPANESE WERE IN BURMA AND WERE MOVING TOWARDS INDIA.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Shingeri

CC-0. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

IN DECEMBER 1941, INDIVIDUAL SATYAGRAHIS WERE RELEASED FROM JAIL. ON MARCH 23, 1942 SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS, A MEMBER OF THE BRITISH CABINET, ARRIVED WITH A NEW OFFER.

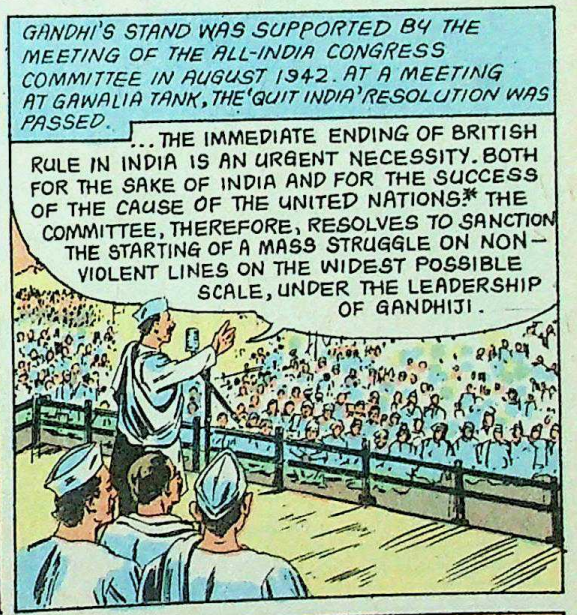
IT PROMISED FREEMDOM AFTER THE WAR, AND A CONSTITUTION FORMED BY INDIANS. BUT IT ALSO GAVE PROVINCES AND PRINCES THE OPTION TO KEEP OUT OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT.

THIS COULD LEAD NOT ONLY TO TWO INDIAS,, BUT SEVERAL OF THEM. DESCRIBING THE PROPOSALS AS A POST-DATED CHEQUE, GANDHI WAS RATHER BLUNT DURING HIS MEETING WITH CRIPPS.

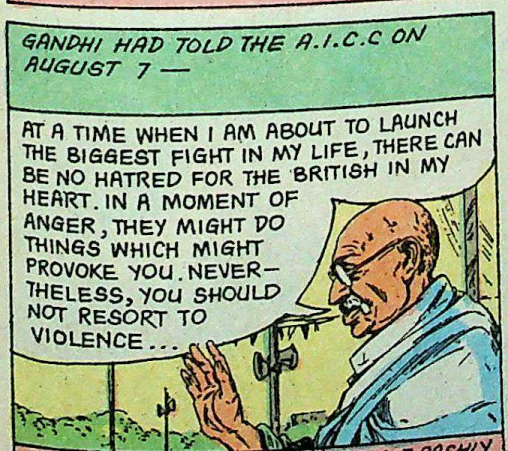
THE CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE ALSO REJECTED THE OFFER WHICH LEFT INDIANS WITH NO POWER TO FIGHT THE JAPANESE IN THE EVENT OF AN ATTACK. MEANWHILE, SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE WHO HAD REACHED JAPAN IN JANUARY 1941, URGED THE PEOPLE THROUGH RADIO MESSAGES TO FIGHT THE BRITISH WITH THE HELP OF THE JAPANESE.

GANDHI URGED THE BRITISH TO HAND OVER CONTROL TO A NATIONAL GOVERNMENT WHICH WOULD CO-OPERATE WITH THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN ARMIES TO DEFEND INDIA AGAINST THE JAPANESE.

GANDHI'S STAND WAS SUPPORTED BY THE MEETING OF THE ALL-INDIA CONGRESS COMMITTEE IN AUGUST 1942. AT A MEETING AT GAWALIA TANK, THE 'QUIT INDIA' RESOLUTION WAS PASSED.

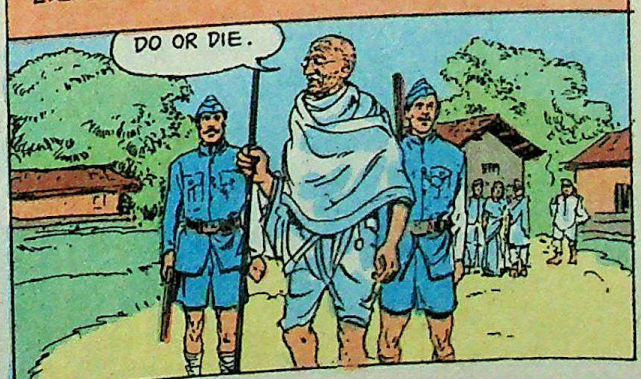


GANDHI HAD TOLD THE A.I.C.C ON AUGUST 7 —



THE GOVERNMENT DID, IN ANGER, ACT RASHLY. THOUGH GANDHI HAD DECLARED THAT HE WOULD NOT START THE MOVEMENT BEFORE HE HAD SEEN THE VICEROY...

...THE GOVERNMENT ARRESTED GANDHI AND ALL MEMBERS OF THE WORKING COMMITTEE EARLY IN THE MORNING OF AUGUST 9. BEFORE BEING TAKEN AWAY BY THE POLICE, GANDHI GAVE A MESSAGE TO "EVERY NON-VIOLENT SOLDIER OF FREEDOM".



* ENGLAND, FRANCE AND AMERICA.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

amar chitra katha
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER, ALL OVER THE COUNTRY—

'Q' FOR QUIT INDIA

QUIT INDIA

QUIT INDIA. 'Q' FOR QUIT INDIA.

BUT WITHOUT GANDHI TO CONTROL AND GUIDE THEM, SOME LEADERS WENT UNDERGROUND AND DISREGARDED THE GANDHIAN OBSERVANCE OF NON-VIOLENCE.

A FEW POLICE OFFICIALS WERE ALSO KILLED. ON READING REPORTS OF THE VIOLENCE IN NEWSPAPERS, ON SEPTEMBER 23, GANDHI, WHO WAS KEPT IN THE AGA KHAN PALACE, PUNE, WROTE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE HOME DEPARTMENT, GOVERMENT OF INDIA —

...HAD THE GOVERNMENT BUT AWAITED MY LETTER* TO THE VICEROY,† NO CALAMITY WOULD HAVE OVERTAKEN THE COUNTRY. THE REPORTED DEPLORABLE DESTRUCTION WOULD HAVE MOST CERTAINLY BEEN AVOIDED.

BUT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT WAS CARRYING ON PROPAGANDA IN ENGLAND AND AMERICA, BLAMING GANDHI AND THE CONGRESS FOR THE VIOLENCE. IT DID NOT THEREFORE MENTION THIS LETTER OF GANDHI IN THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT THE VIOLENCE.

THIS, THE LAST OF GANDHI'S MANY TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT, WAS THE MOST PAINFUL TO HIM PERSONALLY. WITHIN A WEEK AFTER THEIR ARREST ON AUGUST 15, 1942 —

MAHADEV, MAHADEV! IF ONLY HE WOULD OPEN HIS EYES AND LOOK AT ME...

MAHADEV, LOOK! BAPU IS CALLING.

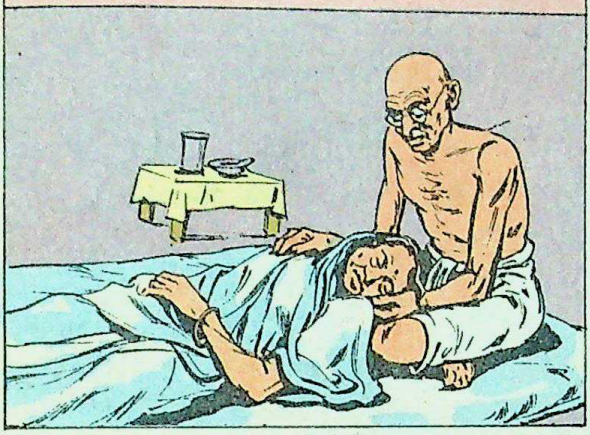
BUT MAHADEV DESAI, GANDHI'S DEVOTED FRIEND AND WORKER, PASSED AWAY.

* WHICH, GANDHI HAD TOLD THE AICC MEETING IN BOMBAY ON AUGUST 8, HE WOULD WRITE BEFORE STARTING THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE. † LORD LINLITHGOW.

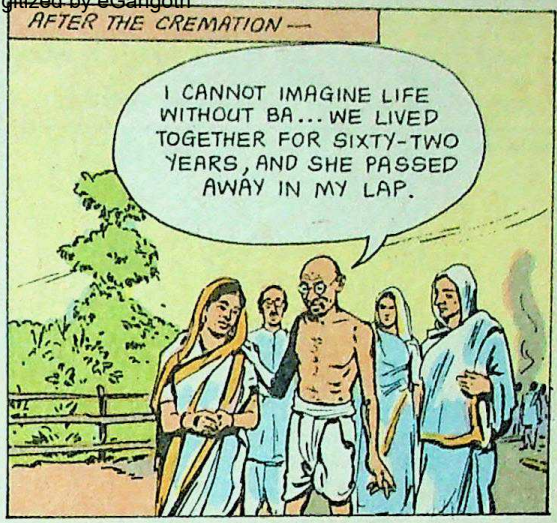
Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri.

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

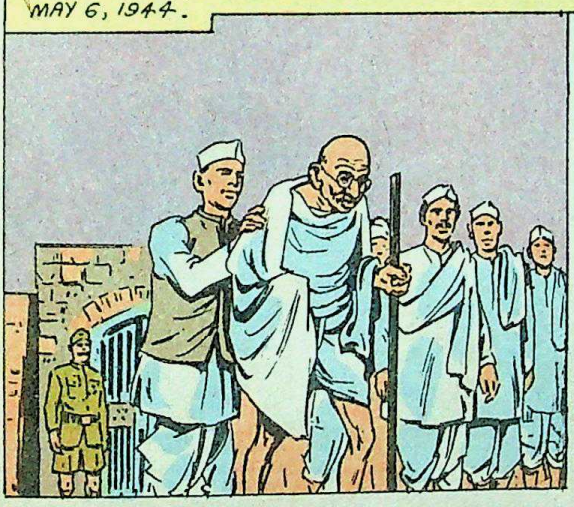
ON FEBRUARY 22, 1944, ABOUT TWO AND A HALF MONTHS BEFORE HE WAS RELEASED, ANOTHER TRAGEDY STRUCK.

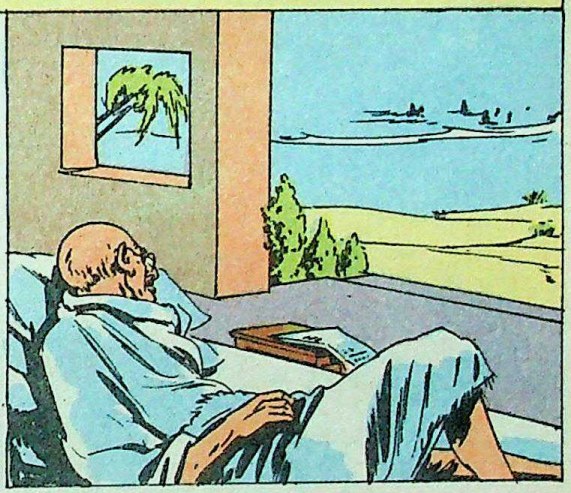


AFTER THE CREMATION —

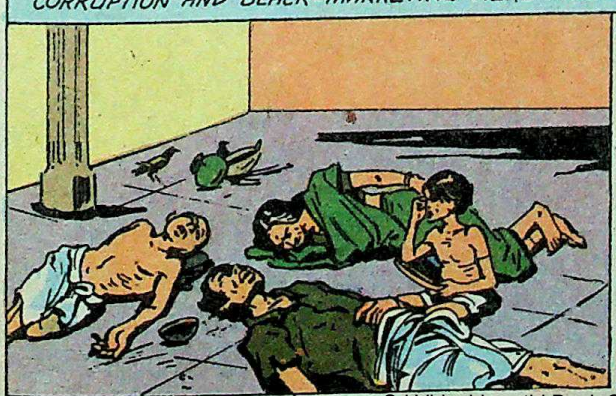


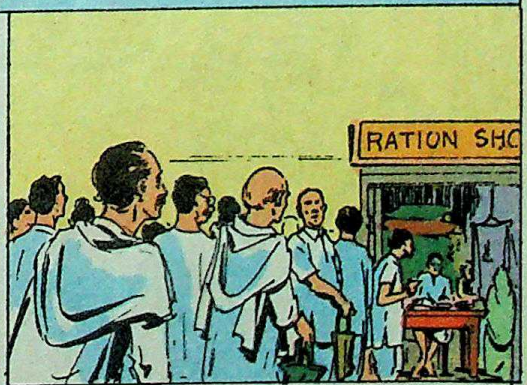
AFTER KASTURBA'S DEATH, GANDHI FELL ILL. HE BECAME ANAEMIC AND SO WEAK THAT THE NEW VICEROY, LORD WAVELL, THOUGHT HE WOULD NOT LIVE LONG AND RELEASED HIM ON MAY 6, 1944.





THE INDIA TO WHICH GANDHI RETURNED AFTER ONE YEAR AND NINE MONTHS IN JAIL, WAS A SAD SCENE. THERE WAS SEVERE SHORTAGE OF FOOD AND CLOTH. IN 1943, LAKHS OF PEOPLE HAD DIED OF STARVATION IN BENGAL. THE QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT HAD FAILED AND THERE SEEMED NO HOPE OF HINDU-MUSLIM UNITY. THERE WAS PROFITEERING AND THE PRICES WERE RISING. CORRUPTION AND BLACK-MARKETING WERE WIDESPREAD.



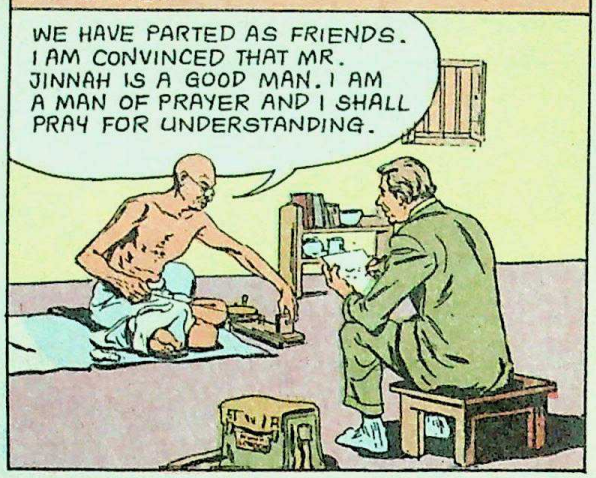


CC-0. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

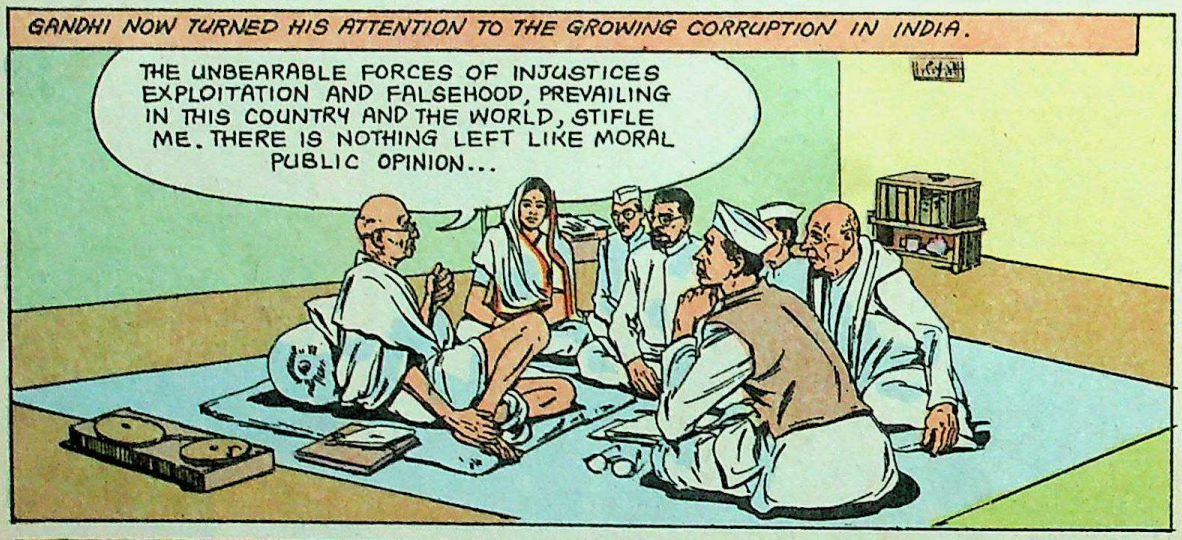
GANDHI MET JINNAH AT HIS RESIDENCE IN BOMBAY DAY AFTER DAY FROM SEPTEMBER 9 TO 26, AND TRIED TO PERSUADE HIM TO GIVE UP HIS DEMAND FOR PAKISTAN. HE OFFERED JINNAH THE SUBSTANCE OF PAKISTAN WITHOUT PARTITION.

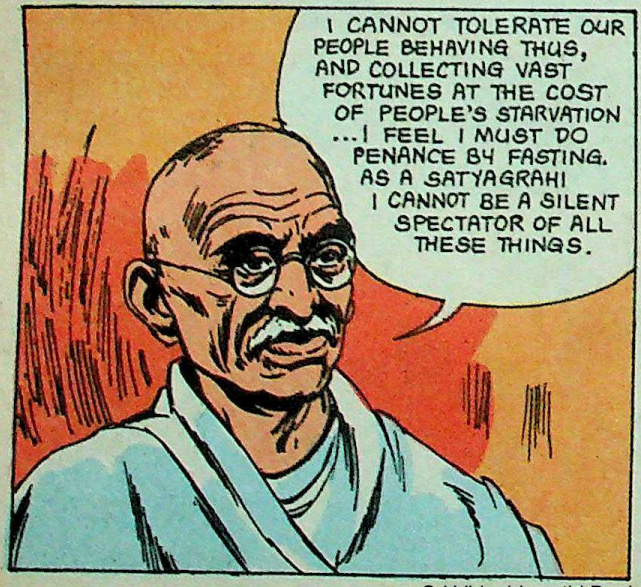
WHEN THE TALKS FAILED, GANDHI APPEALED TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC TO AVOID PARTISANSHIP AND BITTERNESS.

GANDHI TOLD A CORRESPONDENT OF A LONDON NEWSPAPER—

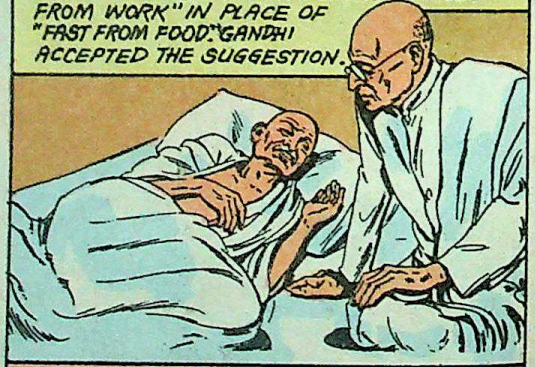


GANDHI NOW TURNED HIS ATTENTION TO THE GROWING CORRUPTION IN INDIA.





FRIENDS AND CO-WORKERS ARGUED WITH GANDHI TO GIVE UP THE IDEA. BEFORE HE COULD DECIDE, HIS HEALTH FAILED. HE FELT WEAK AND EXHAUSTED. RAJAGOPALACHARI ADVISED HIM A MONTH'S "FAST FROM WORK" IN PLACE OF "FAST FROM FOOD." GANDHI ACCEPTED THE SUGGESTION.

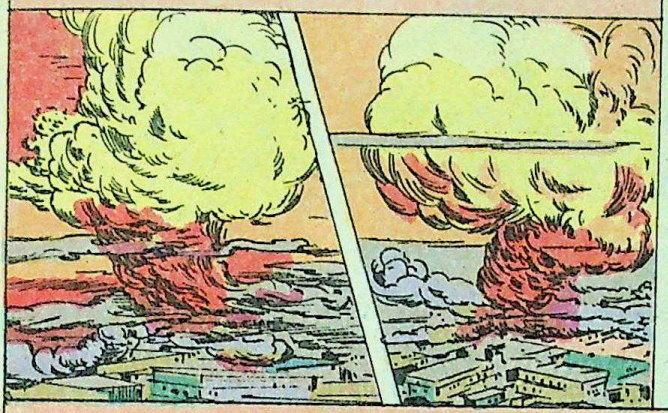


FROM DECEMBER 4 TO 31, HE CONCENTRATED ON THE WORK FOR KASTURBA MEMORIAL TRUST, KHADI, AND POPULARISATION OF HINDI.

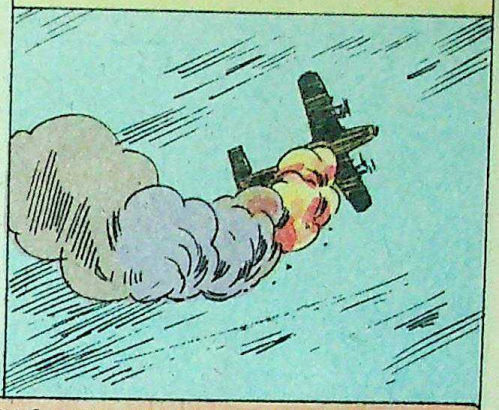
Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

FROM MAY 1945, THE POLITICAL SITUATION CHANGED. GERMANY SURRENDERED ON MAY 7 AND WAS FOLLOWED BY JAPAN ON AUGUST 10.

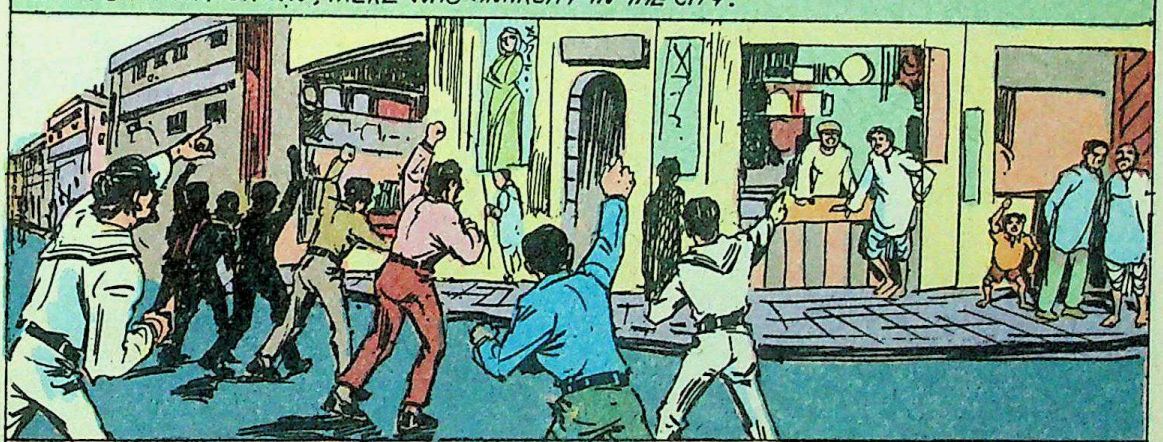


IN THE LAST WEEK OF AUGUST, SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE WAS INJURED IN A PLANE CRASH AND DIED IN JAPAN.



IN ENGLAND, THE LABOUR PARTY WON THE ELECTION BY A HUGE MAJORITY AND BEGAN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE VICEROY FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE INDIAN PROBLEM.

IN FEBRUARY 1946, THE INDIAN SAILORS OF THE ROYAL INDIAN NAVY MUTINIED IN BOMBAY, AND FOR A DAY OR TWO, THERE WAS ANARCHY IN THE CITY.



BY THIS TIME, THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT REALISED THAT IT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RULE INDIA FOR VERY LONG AND DECIDED THAT SOON POWER WILL HAVE TO BE HANDED OVER TO INDIANS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

THREE MINISTERS OF THE BRITISH CABINET, LORD PETHICK-LAWRENCE, SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS, AND A.V. ALEXANDER CAME OUT TO INDIA IN MARCH 1946 TO DISCUSS WITH INDIAN LEADERS HOW THIS COULD BE DONE.

IN SPITE OF PROLONGED DISCUSSIONS, THEY FAILED TO BRING ABOUT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CONGRESS AND THE MUSLIM LEAGUE. THE VICEROY THEN INVITED JAWAHARLAL NEHRU TO FORM A PROVISIONAL NATIONAL GOVERNMENT UNDER HIM.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

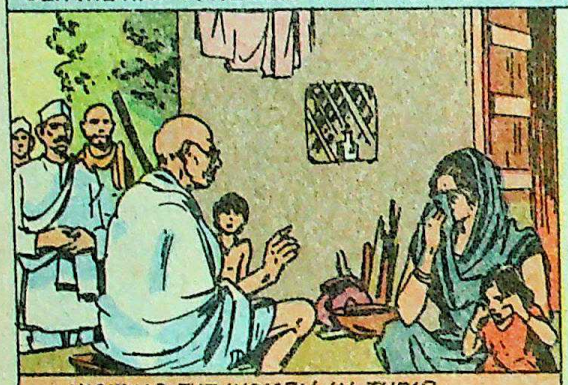
BEFORE DOING SO NEHRU MET JINNAH TO INVITE HIM TO JOIN OR SEND REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MUSLIM LEAGUE TO JOIN THE GOVERNMENT. JINNAH REFUSED...

...AND CALLED ON MUSLIMS TO OBSERVE "DIRECT ACTION DAY" ON AUGUST 16.

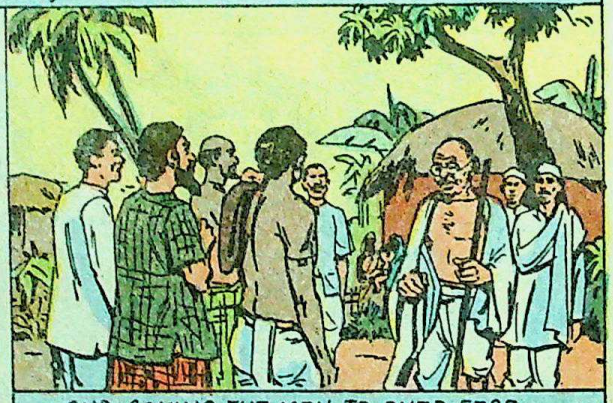
DIRECT ACTION TOOK A VIOLENT TURN.

FIVE THOUSAND PEOPLE WERE KILLED AND MORE THAN TEN THOUSAND WOUNDED IN FOUR OR FIVE DAYS OF RIOTING IN THE STREETS OF CALCUTTA. ANGRY HINDUS HIT BACK FROM THE SECOND DAY ONWARDS.

IN A VICIOUS CIRCLE THE VIOLENCE CONTINUED. THE MUSLIMS IN THE VILLAGES OF THE NOAKHALI DISTRICT* NOW TOOK REVENGE ON THE HINDUS. GANDHI, DEEPLY SHOCKED, WENT TO BENGAL AND TRAVELLED FROM VILLAGE TO VILLAGE, WITH A FEW COMPANIONS...



...VISITING THE WOMEN IN THEIR HOMES TO COMFORT THEM...



...AND ASKING THE MEN TO SHED FEAR.

AFTER FOUR MONTHS IN NOAKHALI, GANDHI WENT TO BIHAR, WHERE THE HINDUS HAD TAKEN REVENGE ON THE MUSLIMS FOR THE MISDEEDS OF THE MUSLIMS OF NOAKHALI.

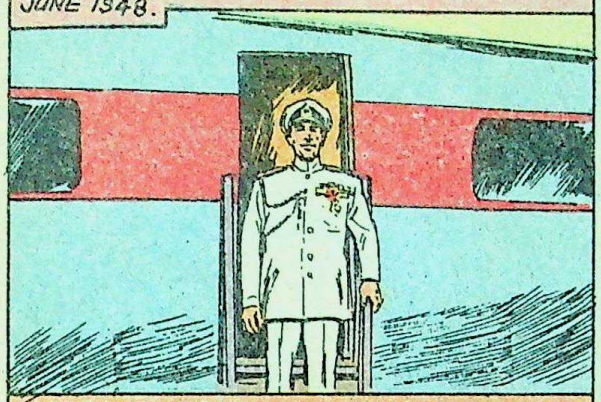
IT WAS ALL THE MORE CRUEL TO GANDHI BECAUSE DURING THE LOOTING AND ARSON—

* NOW IN BANGLADESH.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

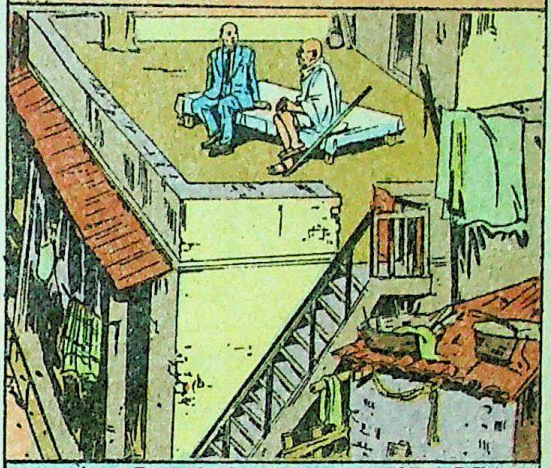
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

GANDHI COULD NOT STAY IN BIHAR LONG. A NEW VICEROY, LORD MOUNTBATTEN, ARRIVED ON MARCH 22, 1947 IN PLACE OF LORD WAVELL, TO CARRY OUT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO HAND OVER POWER TO THE INDIANS BEFORE JUNE 1948.



AFTER TWO MONTHS OF TALKS AND DISCUSSIONS WITH INDIAN LEADERS OF ALL PARTIES, MOUNTBATTEN MADE THE CONGRESS AGREE TO THE PARTITION OF INDIA, AND JINNAH TO THE PARTITION OF BENGAL AND THE PUNJAB. GANDHI DID NOT AT ALL LIKE THE CONGRESS LEADERS' DECISION TO ACCEPT PARTITION, BUT DID NOT PUBLICLY OPPOSE IT. THE DATE OF FREEDOM WAS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM JUNE 1948 TO AUGUST 15, 1947.

GANDHI DID NOT REMAIN IN DELHI TO CELEBRATE THE COMING OF INDEPENDENCE, BUT WENT TO CALCUTTA ON HIS WAY TO NOAKHALI TO COMPLETE HIS MISSION THERE. BUT THE MUSLIMS OF CALCUTTA ENTREATED GANDHI TO REMAIN IN CALCUTTA. GANDHI STAYED IN AN OLD MUSLIM HOUSE IN A POOR LOCALITY, WITH THE FORMER CHIEF MINISTER OF BENGAL, H.S. SUHRAWARDY.

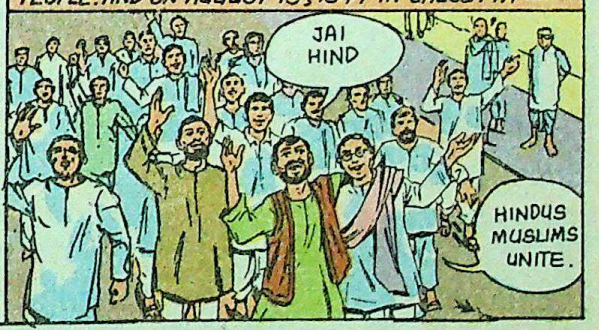


THE NEXT DAY, AUGUST 14, 1947, AFTER THE EVENING PRAYER, SOME YOUNG MEN RUSHED TOWARDS THE HOUSE TO ATTACK SUHRAWARDY.

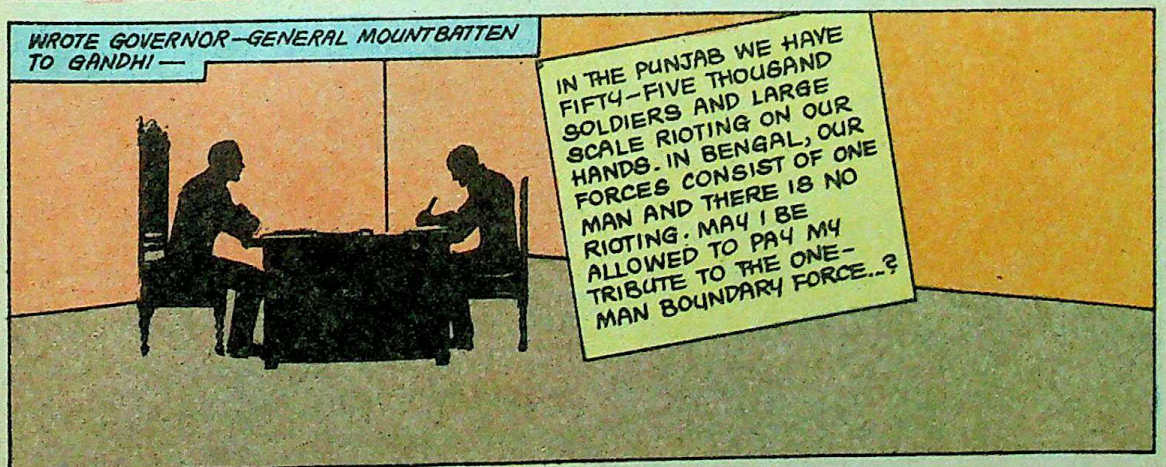
GANDHI BROUGHT OUT SUHRAWARDY BEFORE THEM. SUHRAWARDY ADMITTED HIS GUILT IN PREVENTING THE POLICE FROM PROTECTING THE HINDUS A YEAR AGO, ON AUGUST 16, 1946.

THE YOUNG MEN CALMED DOWN AND WENT AWAY.

GANDHI'S SINCERITY HAD APPEALED TO THE PEOPLE. AND ON AUGUST 15, 1947 IN CALCUTTA —



WROTE GOVERNOR-GENERAL MOUNTBATTEN TO GANDHI —



CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

THE PEACE, HOWEVER, PROVED SHORT LIVED. THE TROUBLE STARTED AGAIN ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 31. A CROWD OF ANGRY HINDUS ATTACKED THE HOUSE IN THE MUSLIM LOCALITY IN WHICH GANDHI WAS STAYING, SMASHED ITS GLASS WINDOW-PANES, BROKE OPEN THE DOORS, AND RUSHED IN.

THE POLICE ARRIVED AND DISPERSED THE CROWD WITH TEAR-GAS.

GANDHI DECIDED TO FAST. IN A STATEMENT ON SEPTEMBER 1, 1947 HE ANNOUNCED:—

WHAT MY WORD IN PERSON CANNOT DO, MY FAST MAY. I BEGIN FASTING FROM 8.15 P.M. TO END ONLY IF AND WHEN SANITY RETURNS TO CALCUTTA.

THE FAST HAD THE DESIRED EFFECT. HINDU AND MUSLIM LEADERS JOINED IN APPEALING TO GANDHI TO END THE FAST. ON THE AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 4, A DEPUTATION OF PROMINENT CITIZENS OF CALCUTTA PROMISED TO GANDHI IN WRITING:

WE SHALL NEVER AGAIN ALLOW COMMUNAL STRIFE IN THE CITY, AND SHALL STRIVE UNTO DEATH TO PREVENT IT.

GANDHI ENDED HIS FAST. CALCUTTA THUS RETURNED TO SANITY AND THERE WAS PEACE IN THE WHOLE OF WEST BENGAL THEREAFTER.

BUT THE CONFLAGRATION WAS SPREADING FAST IN DELHI AND IN THE TWO PUNJABS, INDIAN AND PAKISTANI. JAWAHARLAL NEHRU HAD WIRED TO GANDHI ON SEPTEMBER 2 TO GO TO THE PUNJAB AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. GANDHI REACHED DELHI ON SEPTEMBER 9, AND AT THE EVENING PRAYER MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 10—

HAS THE CITY OF DELHI, WHICH ALWAYS APPEARED GAY, TURNED INTO A CITY OF THE DEAD?

DELHI WAS IN CHAOS. THOUSANDS OF HINDU AND SIKH REFUGEES HAD POURED INTO THE CITY FROM PAKISTAN. THEY HAD DRIVEN OUT THE MUSLIMS FROM THEIR HOMES AND OCCUPIED THEM. GANDHI VISITED THE CAMPS IN WHICH THE MUSLIMS HAD TAKEN SHELTER, AND THE EDUCATIONAL CENTRE OF JAMIA MILLIA, RUN BY THE STAUNCH NATIONALIST MUSLIM: ZAKIR HUSAIN.*

* WHO LATER BECAME PRESIDENT OF INDIA, 1957-1962.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

LATER GANDHI SPOKE TO THE HINDUS AND SIKHS ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF THE MUSLIMS.

ALL THESE PEOPLE ARE LIKE MY OWN SONS, LIKE MY OWN BROTHERS. I REQUEST YOU NOT TO REGARD THE MUSLIMS AS YOUR ENEMIES. I HAVE SEEN THE TERRIBLE PLIGHT OF HINDUS AND SIKHS OF PAKISTAN. DO YOU THINK I AM NOT PAINED...?

YOUR BROTHER IS MY BROTHER, YOUR MOTHER IS MY MOTHER, AND I HAVE THE SAME ANGUISH IN MY HEART AS YOU HAVE. WHAT DID GURU NANAK TEACH? NANAK SAHEB TRIED TO BRING TOGETHER ALL RELIGIONS... HE MADE NO DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE HINDUS, THE MUSLIMS AND THE SIKHS.

HE SPOKE TO THE MUSLIMS—

...THE MUSLIMS SHOULD OPEN-HEARTEDLY DECLARE THAT THEY BELONG TO INDIA AND ARE LOYAL TO THE UNION. IT WOULD BE A NOBLE THING IF THE MUSLIMS, LIKE THE HINDUS OF BIHAR AND CALCUTTA, REPENT AND ADMIT THAT THEY HAVE DONE WRONG THINGS...TODAY... BECAUSE OF YOU... HINDUS ARE VERY MUCH ANNOYED WITH ME...

I SHALL NOT BE SURPRISED IF ONE DAY, I FALL A PREY TO THIS FURY.

GANDHI'S PRESENCE AND WORDS BROUGHT CALM TO DELHI, BUT THE CALM WAS ONLY ON THE SURFACE. THERE WAS SO MUCH HATRED AND FEAR OF ONE ANOTHER IN PAKISTAN AND INDIA THAT LAKHS AND LAKHS OF HINDUS AND SIKHS LEFT PAKISTAN FOR INDIA, AND MUSLIMS OF INDIA FOR PAKISTAN.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

amar chitra katha
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

MANY REFUGEES OF THE THREE COMMUNITIES DRAGGED EACH OTHER OUT OF THE TRAINS IN WHICH THEY WERE TRAVELLING, AND KILLED ONE ANOTHER.

SO AS IN CALCUTTA, GANDHI WENT ON AN INDEFINITE FAST FROM JANUARY 13, 1948. ON JANUARY 18, THE HINDU AND SIKH LEADERS IN DELHI PROMISED HIM THAT THEY WOULD...

... PROTECT THE LIFE, PROPERTY AND FAITH OF MUSLIMS AND THAT THE INCIDENTS WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN DELHI WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN.

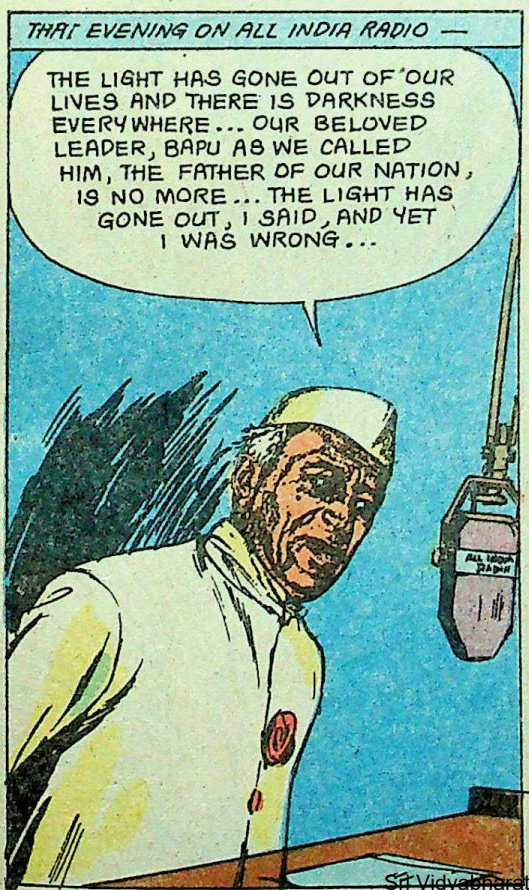
ONLY THEN DID GANDHI BREAK HIS FAST.

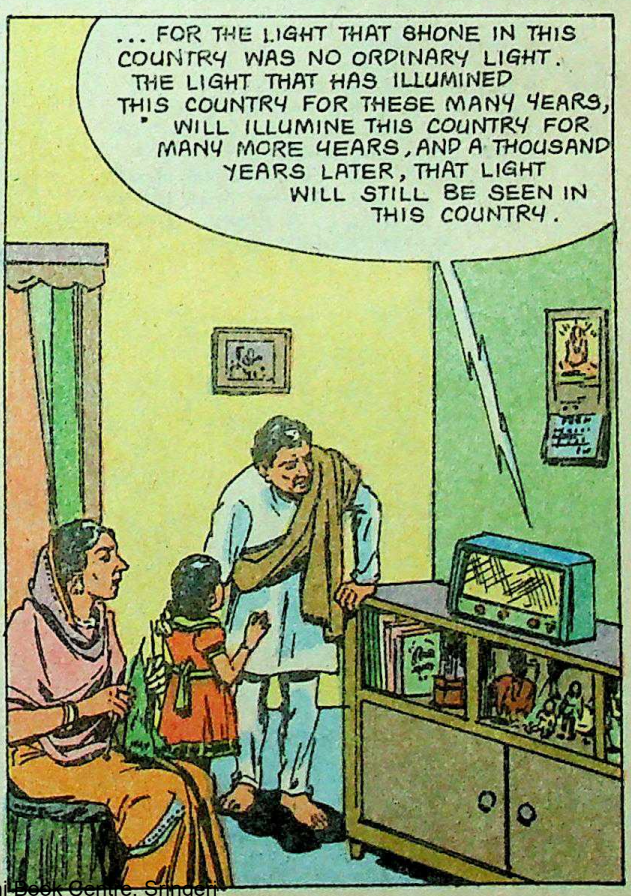
BUT GANDHI'S EFFORTS TO UNITE THE PEOPLE DID NOT PLEASE EVERYONE. AT 5.10 P.M ON JANUARY 30, 1948 —

HE RAMA!

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

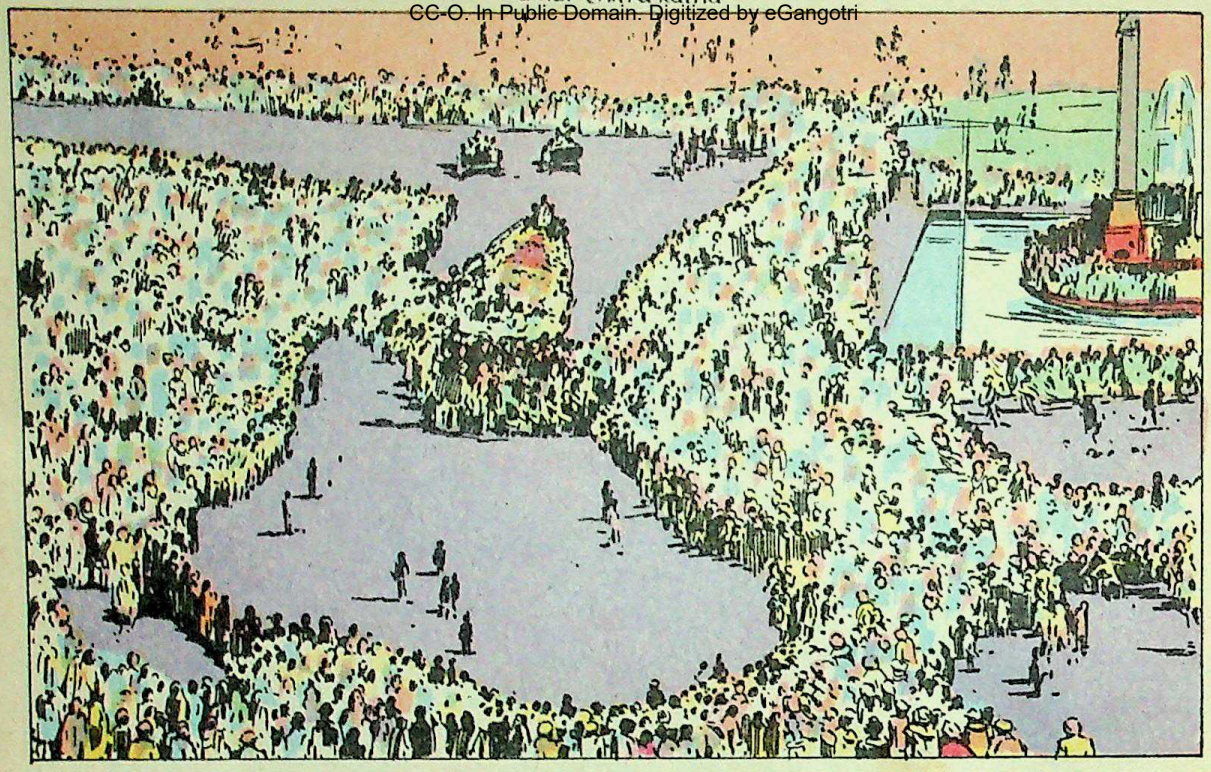


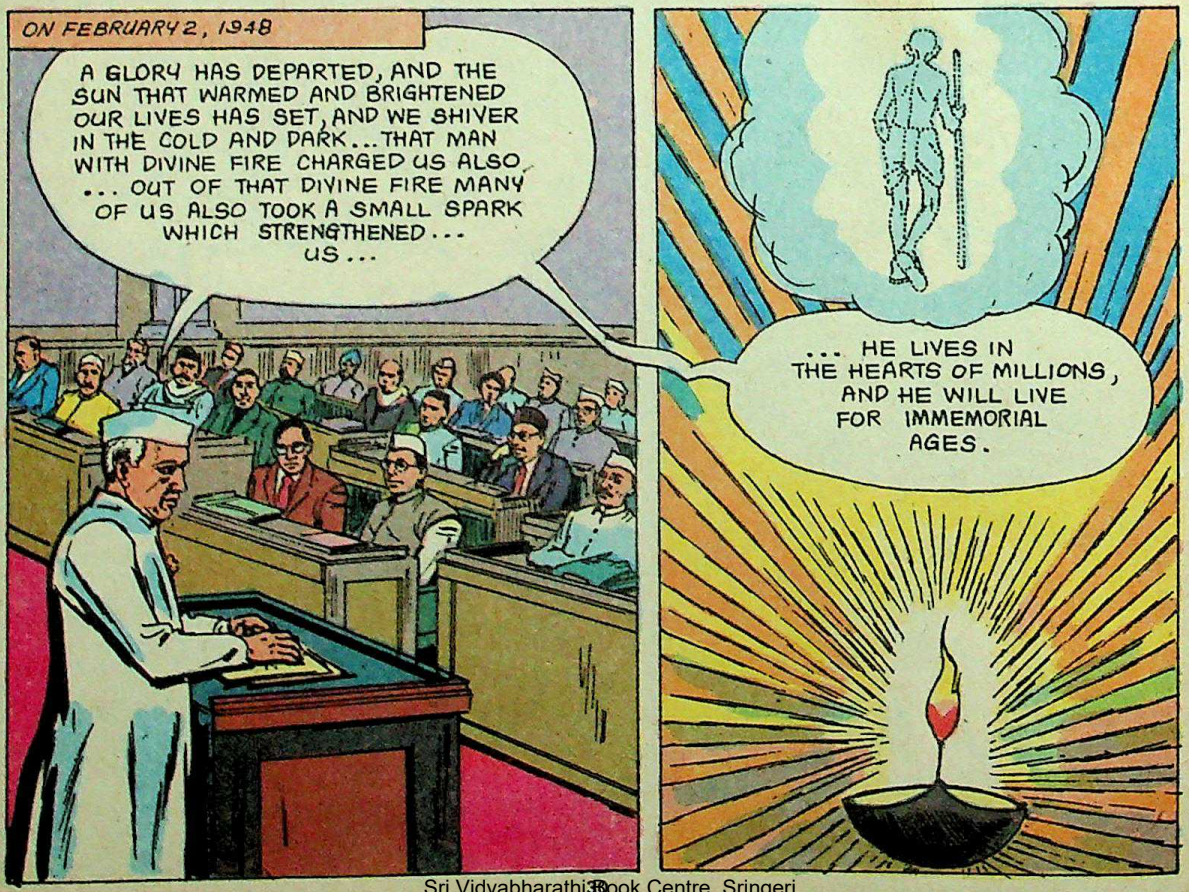


* A VERSE FROM THE BHAGAVAD GITA.

Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Shringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

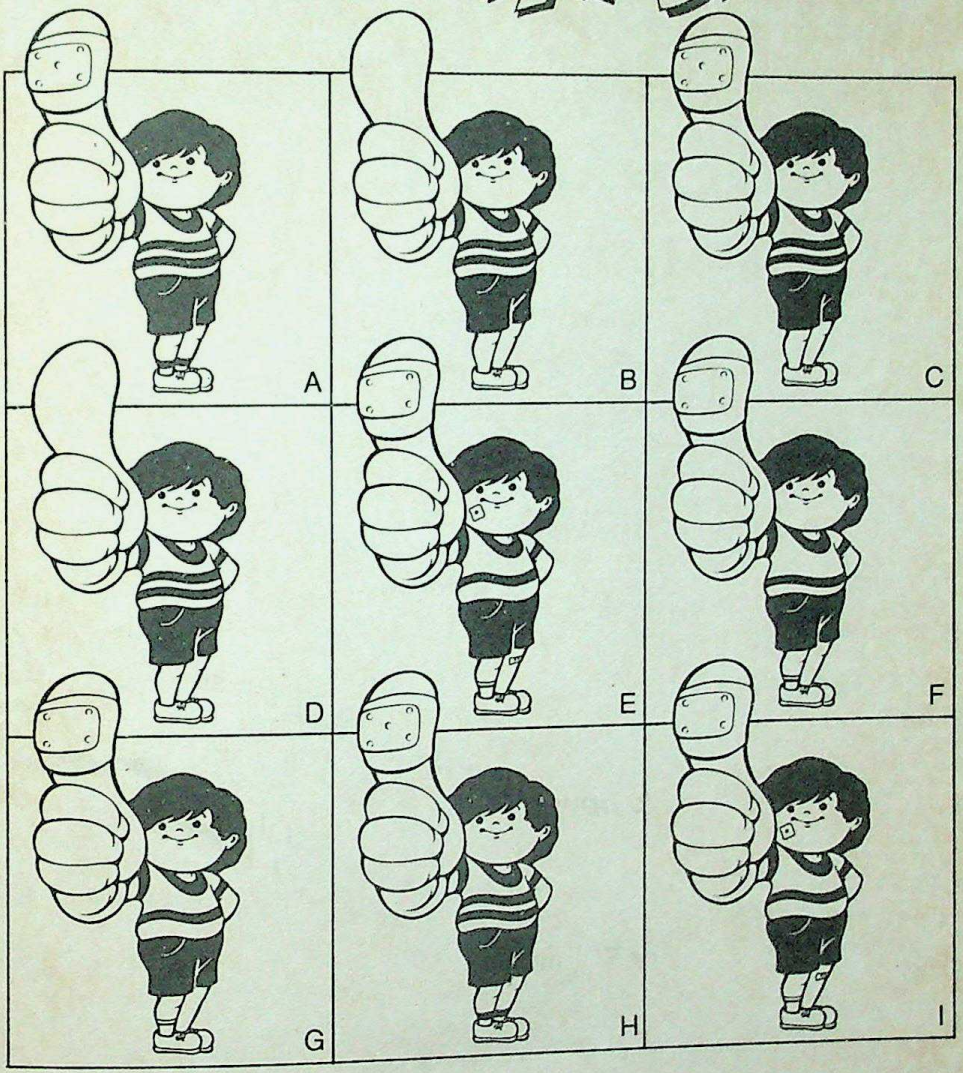




Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri

SPOT THE REAL HANDYBOY!



THERE ARE FOUR PAIRS ABOVE.
CAN YOU SPOT THEM?
THE REAL HANDYBOY
HOWEVER, DOES NOT HAVE A TWIN.
GUESS WHICH BOX HE IS IN.

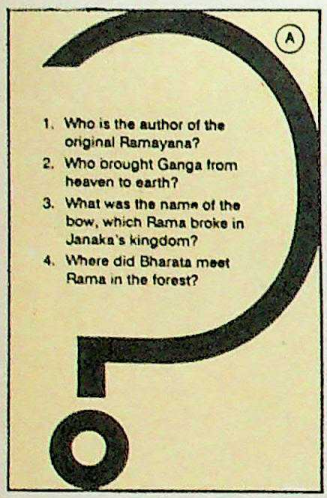
Answer: Box C

The friendlier strip!
Handyplast®
® Registered Trade Mark
HTA 1424

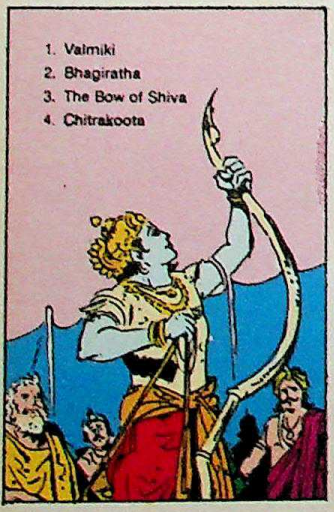
Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri

August 1, 1989
Regd. No. MH/BYW-218
Registered with the Registrar of Newspapers for India.
CC-O. In Public Domain. Digitized by eGangotri
Registration No: R.N. 31757/70

QUIZ TIME
WITH UNCLE PAI
is the funway to learning.



THE RAMAYANA



A new game from the house of Amar Chitra Katha.

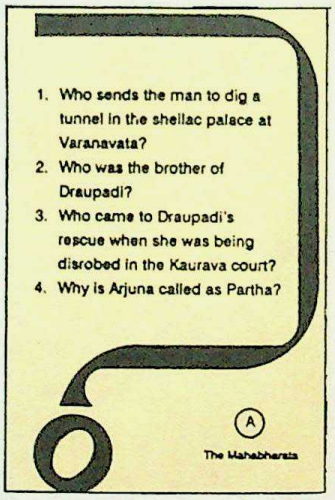
Uncle Pai's popular quiz contests now available in print.

A set of 50 illustrated quiz cards with 200 questions and answers on a selected topic

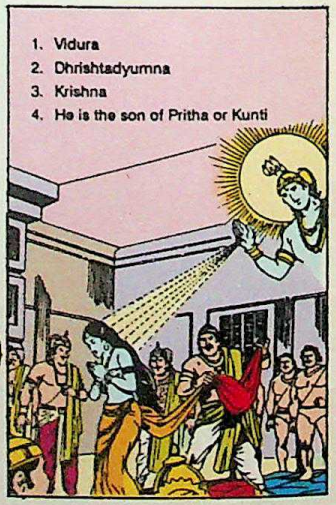
Price Rs. 17/- per set.

Just out
The Ramayana quiz
The Mahabharata quiz

Published by:
IBH India Book House Pvt. Ltd.



THE MAHABHARATA



Sri Vidyabharathi Book Centre, Sringeri